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BEHIND

THESE YEARS.

1839-1939

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH







Rec'd Feb 9, 1977



1936906

That Christ might dwell, a  
living presence, at the city's  
heart . . . . .





## DEDICATION

The First Presbyterian Church of Davenport is the lengthened shadow of a thousand men and women who prayed and sacrificed that Christ might dwell, a living presence, at the city's heart. To them these pages are gratefully dedicated.



For all the saints, who from their labors rest,  
Who thee by faith before the world confessed,  
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blessed.

Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress, and their Might;  
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;  
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.

O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,  
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,  
And win with them the victor's crown of gold.

—William W. How





The Rev. Alfred Samuel Nickless, D.D., Pastor since 1935. The demand for him as a speaker on religious, educational, civic and good will programs is a tribute to the esteem in which he is held in the city as well as the church.

The First Presbyterian Church of Davenport, at Kirkwood Boulevard and Iowa Street, is the crowning achievement of the builders who have ever extended their vision to see the opportunities for a living, growing church. For forty years it has stood as a benediction in a quiet residential neighborhood on the hilltop.











Lights! They gather up the wandering thoughts and shed their rays of peace and hope upon the troubled soul. A score of tiny flames point upward to one soft light, which, burning day and night, reminds the worshiper of Him who is ever present to help in time of need. The ageless saints, in Byzantine simplicity, join in adoration of Him.









In the twilight hush of the sanctuary, for twoscore years, men and women have gathered beneath this dome to mingle their voices of praise and supplication. Under the great, spreading arms of the Cross, designed upon the vaulted ceiling, they have dedicated their lives to the God of Righteousness.





Everybody, sing!

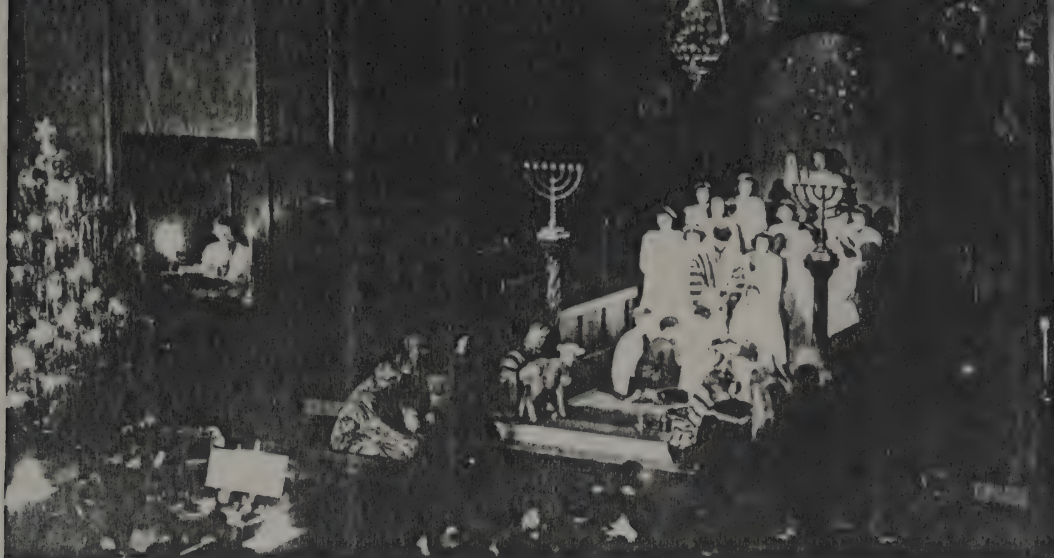
Oscar Leonard  
Gustafson,

Minister of Music  
since 1931.



The Christmastide decorations include the light of scores of candles, as well as many evergreen trees. Each Sunday the floral arrangements, under the direction of Mrs. P. T. Burrows and Mrs. Oliver Murray, add to the impressiveness of the worship service.





The story of the Christ Child lives anew in the pageant presented each year on the Sunday afternoon before Christmas, under the direction of Miss Zarges. A sense of the sanctity of the home is fostered by the reverent portrayal of the Holy Family. The hearts of young and old thrill to the worship of the lowly shepherds with their live sheep, and the treasures laid on the altar by the three wise men.

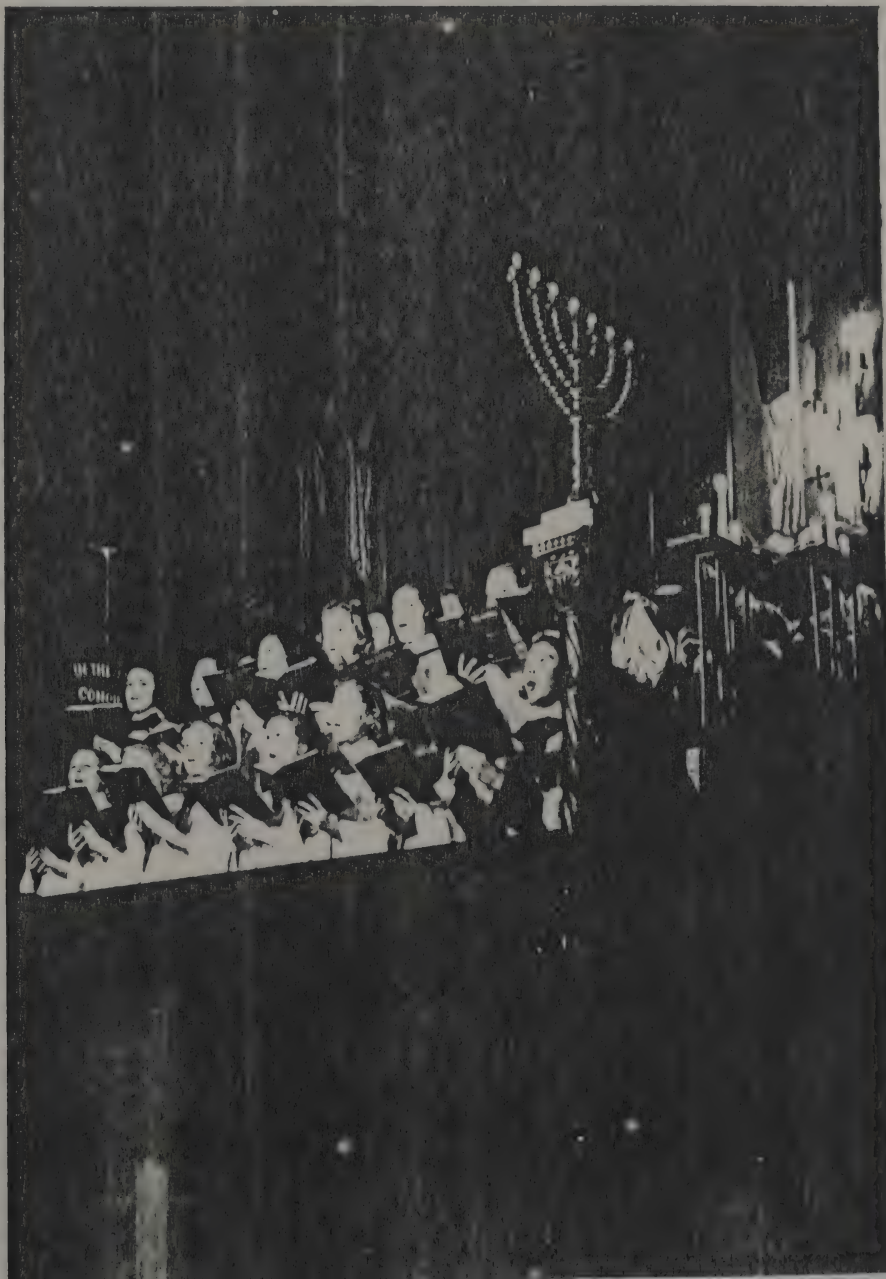
Scene from the annual Candlelight Festival.





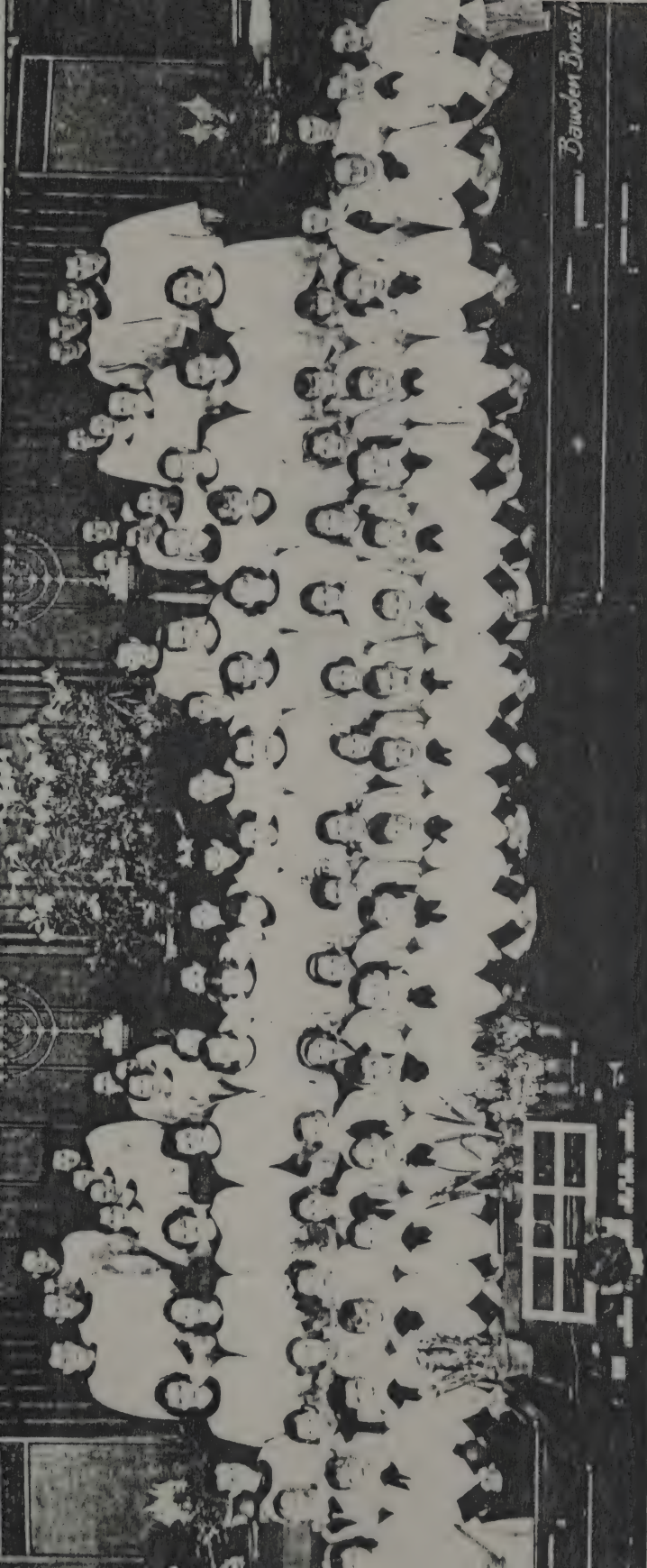


The Candlelight Service that ushers in the Christmas Season has become a tradition in the First Church. In the festive radiance of a thousand candles, the five choirs carol the message of Peace and Good Will. The eager throng that joins in the worship of this service each year is an eloquent expression of the community's appreciation.









Easter Choir Ensemble, 1935, Oscar L. Gustafson, Minister of Music; Miss Grace E. Smith, Organist; the Rev. Alfred Samuel Nickless, D. D., Pastor.





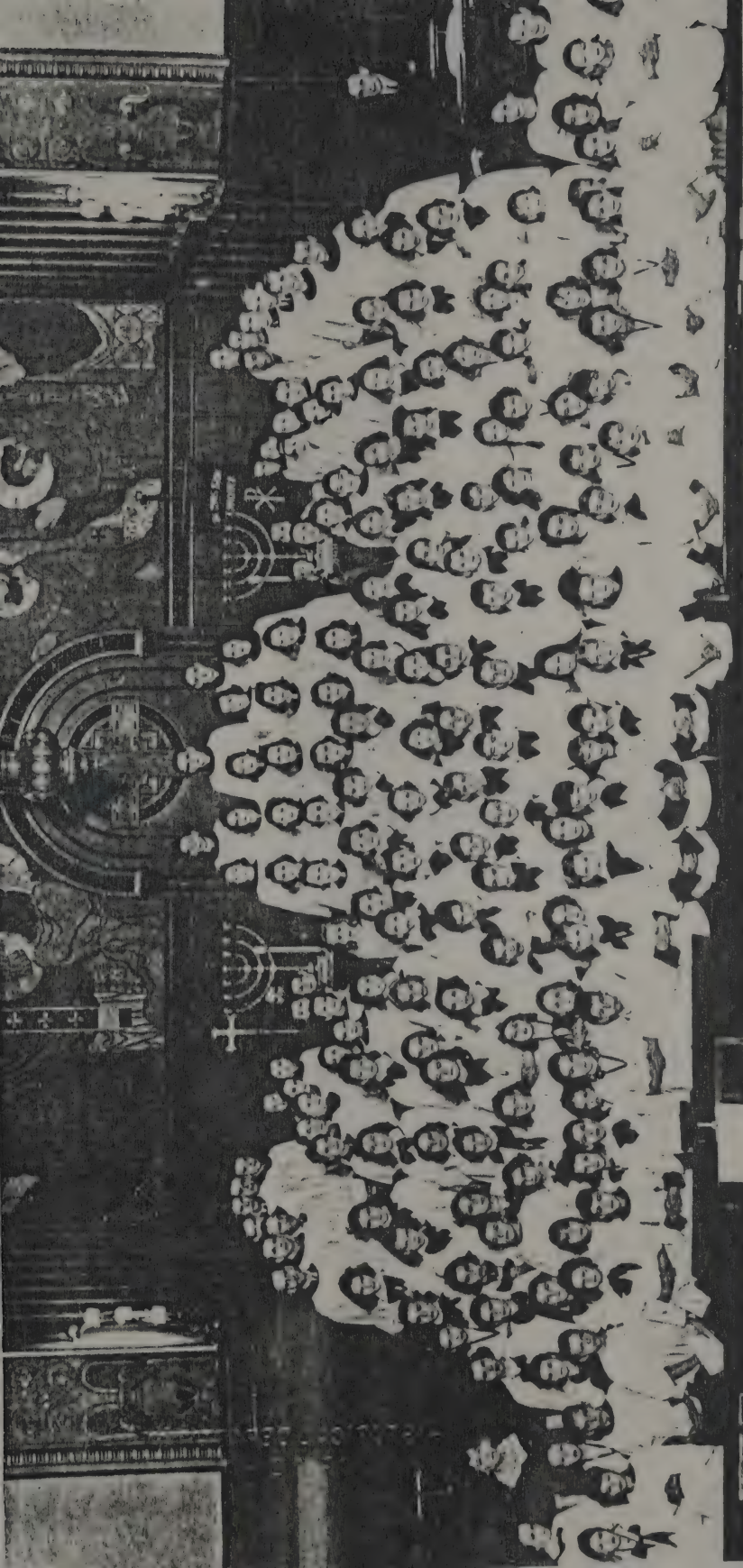
Oscar L. Gustafson revising the choir roll.



Members of the junior choirs earn honors by perfect attendance. Helen Nickless receives the silver cross at the hands of Margaret Looney Spore.







The Choir Ensemble which sang at the Thanksgiving Sunday service, November 26, 1939. The Rev. Alfred S. Nickless, Pastor; Oscar L. Gustafson, Minister of Music; Miss Grace E. Smith, Organist; Mrs. Fern Wren, Pianist; Mrs. R. E. Beedee, Choir Mother.

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# THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Oscar L. Gustafson, Minister of Music

Miss Grace E. Smith, Organist

Laurance M. Smith, Assistant Organist

William L. Heysinger, Senior Librarian

Mrs. Fern Wren, Accompanist

Miss Lenore Gilbert, Accompanist

Miss Marjorie Brickley, Accompanist

Mrs. Roscoe E. Beedee, Choir Mother

## Senior Choir

Richard Bartel  
Mildred Colby  
Mrs. Alton Collins  
Miriam Emeis  
Laverne Flambo  
Mrs. Arthur Flint  
Alice Haas  
Ashley Hensley  
Wm. L. Heysinger

Helen Hueckstaedt  
Elinor Johnson  
Norma Jones  
Phyllis Jones  
Mrs. Lawrence Kohler  
Fred Lambert  
Mrs. Fred Lambert  
Wanabelle Landry  
Shirley Lewis

Howard Makeever  
Elizabeth Mast  
Dorothy McClanahan  
Howard McLaughlin  
Mrs. Donald McNab  
Jarmille Minard  
Robert Minard  
Ralph Morgan  
Ruth Overett

Walter Parker  
Mrs. LaVira Simonton  
Laurance Smith  
Mrs. Laurance Smith  
Ruth Smith  
Mrs. Guy Spore  
Eugene Springer  
Mrs. John H. True  
Frances Zoekler

## Eventide Choir

Dorothy Alkire  
Adelaide Arndt  
William Bailey  
Phyllis Barsel  
Dorothy Beintema  
Pauline Berger  
Richard Bordwell  
Robert Bowers  
Virginia Challis  
Ruby Chisel  
Marilyn Davis

Betty Fischer  
Arthur Gannett  
Richard Garner  
Allan Glaspell  
Mary Green  
Janet Howard  
Jennie Howard  
Mary Margaret James  
William Johnson  
Mary Johnston  
Audrey Kelly  
Glenelyn Lawless

Donna Leatherman  
Martha Lightner  
Betty Livermore  
Barbara Maas  
Ruby Jane Moody  
Shirley Moore  
William Mulford  
Armilda Platner  
Robert Richardson  
Marcia Rozema  
Cyrus Spear  
Mary Ann Spillane

Rose Margaret Spore  
Nancy Stephens  
Keith Townsend  
Jacqueline Urmey  
Jack Walker  
Dorothy Watson  
Jean Watson  
Travis Watson  
Delores Whistler  
Jean Williams  
Russel Zach

## Intermediate Girls' A Capella Choir

Evalyn Bates  
Mary Bordwell  
Barbara Chartier  
Patsy Chesebro  
Yvonne Evans  
Eloise Gagghagen  
Betty Goenne  
Evelyn Hage  
Maxine Haller  
Janet Hunt

Margery Johnson  
Louise Johnston  
Dorothy Keller  
Elaine Kennard  
Betty Knecht  
Janice Larson  
Lorelie Larson  
Mary Louise Lathrop  
Beverly Lawless  
Lois Miller

Elizabeth Ann Moody  
Virgene Pennewell  
Mary Lou Plambeck  
Jean Pollitz  
Mary Ellen Porter  
Carolyn Powell  
Dorothy Risse  
Jeanne Schlachach  
Carla Schmielau  
Margery Soladay

Lois Steinhour  
Hope Swartzendruber  
Nancy Lee Turnbull  
Dorothy Vrooman  
Kay Wahle  
Virginia Weck  
Phyllis Whistler  
Marilyn Witt  
Ann Yeaton  
Evelyn Zach

## Cathedral Singers

Raynard Ball  
Robert Bawden  
Robert Beckman  
Keith Chartier  
William Christiansen  
George Crawford

Clemens Cunnick  
Ronald Davis  
Donald Gagghagen  
Duane Grobman  
John Hatchitt  
Robert Jacobs

Marvin Johnson  
Merlin Lee  
Bruce McGarvey  
William McLain  
Morris Rozema

Richard Scholle  
Donald Shawver  
James Taylor  
Louis Van Houten  
Robert Witt  
Jack Zoekler

## Cecelian Carollers

Betty Ball  
Richard Barton  
Charlotte Bates  
Patsy Benhart  
Burr Bordwell  
Martha Coleman  
Geraldine Collier  
Lorna Collier  
Virginia Day  
Ardis DeKam  
Mary Louise DeKam  
Paul Dennis  
Betty Ann Denniston  
Ann Ervin  
Gerald Gagghagen  
Harold Greene

Darlene Griffith  
Beverly Jean Gustafson  
Joyce Gustafson  
Lennah Jane Hampton  
Jacqueline Hauschild  
Helen Havercamp  
Charles Hawley  
Mary Ann Hersom  
Judy Sue James  
Sally Kleinhenn  
Dorothy Knecht  
Jack Lambrecht  
Marilyn Lambrecht  
Janis Larson  
Gwen Makeever  
Lois McCord

Claire McIntosh  
Barbara Melby  
Betty Lou Meyer  
Delores Miller  
Dorothy Niemand  
Georgia Powell  
David Rindler  
Nellie Risse  
Marilyn Rosene  
Joan Runge  
Joyce Runge  
Molly Ryan  
Sally Ryan  
Joy Schick  
Beverly Shannon  
Francis Shawver

Barbara Smith  
Robert Swartzendruber  
Catherine True  
Cathryn Turnbull  
Barbara Ward  
James Watt  
Don Wernentin  
Lois White  
Delores Wilkerson  
Geraldine Williamson  
Audrae Witt  
Joy Wren  
Patricia Wren  
Donna Zinger  
Sally Ann Zoekler



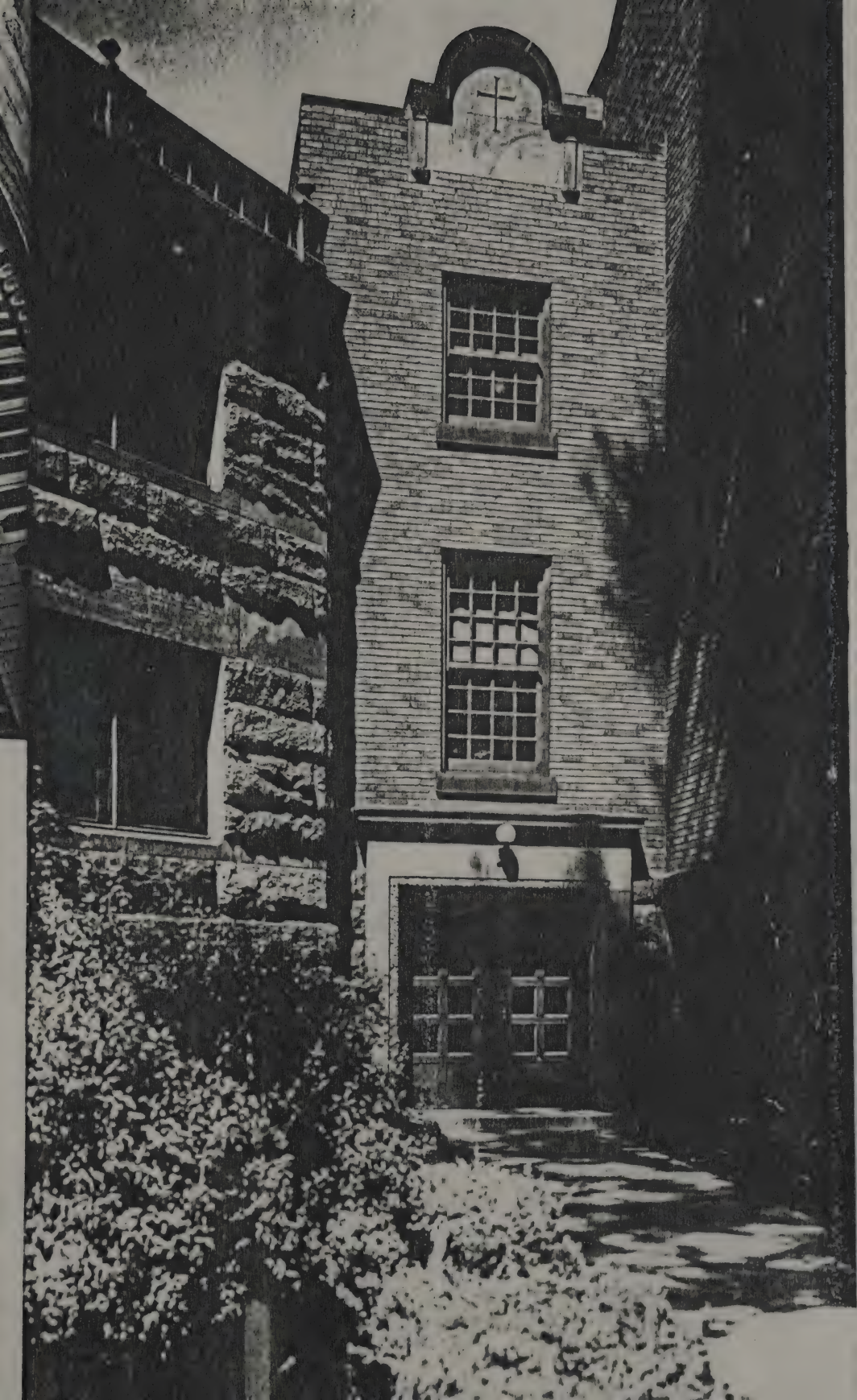


Miss Grace E. Smith at the organ, has opened the praise service on Sunday mornings at the First Church for a dozen years. As the mighty organ of 2,600 pipes responds to her touch, she leads the choirs and the congregational singing at the regular services, and also assists in the training of the singers. This new electrical organ was installed in 1924 to replace the old hand-pumped organ which was purchased for the Seventh Street Church in 1873.

Entrance to the corridor that connects the Bible School  
Building with the Sanctuary.











## GREETINGS

to all members and friends of First Church, as the church we love enters upon its second century. The word that I would give you as your pastor is that which the Apostle gave to the church in Philippi, "And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and all discernment; so that ye may approve the things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and void of offense unto the day of Christ; being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are through Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God."

*Alfred S. Nickless*











The Ruling Elders are responsible for the spiritual welfare of the church. The Session of the First Presbyterian Church consists of eighteen Ruling Elders, with eight who have been ordained but are inactive at present.

Back row (left to right): Edwin B. Lindsay, H. E. Johnson, Jesse J. McShane, Earl Forkner, \*R. P. Redfield, George Innes, Charles L. Baker, \*Parke T. Burrows.

Second row: \*Fred J. Glueck, R. E. Beedee, C. Clyde Minard, Thomas J. Cowan, Harold A. McIntosh, William R. Johnson, \*Harry B. Betty.

Front row: Dr. John C. Peart, Floyd B. Whitted, Roy W. McLain, \*Louis W. McKown, Dr. Alfred S. Nickless, Dr. Charles R. Baker, \*Harry B. Moorhead, Aaron I. Naumann.

Absent: \*J. T. Eason, O. E. Johnson, \*Dr. L. H. Kornder, Irwin H. Schmitt, \*Paul Tornquist, Louis J. Yaggy.







The Board of Trustees deals with all matters pertaining to the property and finances of the church.

Back row (left to right): Parke T. Burrows, Albert R. Bawden, Maurice N. Richardson, Harry B. Betty.

Front Row: George M. Bechtel, George W. Cable, Cable Von Maur.

Insets: Harry J. Lytle (absent), Fred Wyman (deceased).

The Deacons care for the needy of the parish.

Back row (left to right): Ernie C. Heuck, Harvey S. Bates, Arnold W. Meyer, Jerry Jager.

Front row: W. H. Heiny, Wesley P. Ammerman, A. T. Danico, P. C. Cunnick.





The Romanesque entrance to the Bible School Building. Through this portal hundreds of boys and girls come for religious education and week-day recreation.







The Bible School Building erected in 1924 of brown brick trimmed with brown stone to harmonize with the sanctuary (left).



Miss Alfreda Zarges, Director of Religious Education and Young People's Work since 1926. Through her attention to unnumbered details, the Church School maintains a high standard of service.





#### GENERAL OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH SCHOOL

Back row: A. I. Naumann, Supt.; Richard Von Maur, Sec.; Harvey Bates, Asst. Treas.; Dr. A. S. Nickless, Pastor; L. J. Yaggy, Treas.

Second row: Alfreda Zarges, Educational Director; Betty Wood, Church Nursery; Shirley Lewis, Sec.; Ardis Phillips, Enrollment Sec.; Mary Jager, Enrollment Sec.; Floyd Whitted, Inter. Supt.

Front row (left to right): Jack Walker, Record Collector; Wana-belle Landry, Disc. Sec.; Mrs. Floyd Whitted, Cradle Roll Supt.; Bernice Eckman, Disc. Sec.; Ernie Heuck, Jr., Chr. Educational Council.

Interior of the Bible School Auditorium with the Intermediate Senior Department assembled for opening worship services.









# INTERMEDIATE DEPARTMENT

Back row: Donald Niemand, Billy Wells, Charles Peart, Morris Rozema, Robert Rosene, Bill Bailey, Jack Boteman, Jack Townsend, Bob Boteman, Morris Merrill, Fred Farnsworth, Richard Rickets, Joe Weck, Travis Watson, Arthur Gannett, Bill Mulford, Marvin Lindberg, Alex Matheson, John Modden, Gordon Cunningham, Wayne Hauschild, Bill Baker, Don Cozine.

Fourth row: George Tuerk, Kathleen Meyer, Jean Zoetkier, Charlotte Thuenen, Jacqueline Urmy, Marie Swartzendruber, Ruth Hanssen, Virginia Johnston, Betty Krebill, Marijane Purvis, Dorothy Ruth, Ruth Trainer, Ann Neill, Emeline Godley, Louise Boyer, Helen Tracy, Dorothy Beintema, Vey Christensen, Phyllis Milbrath, Beverly Wilson, Jean Johnson, Betty Moore, Mary Ann Spillane, Ardis Jones, Jarmille Minard.

Third row: Betty Goenne, Elaine Kennard, Joyce Greenlee, Caroline White, Frances Armil, Mary Bordwell, Shirley Meyer, Hope Swartzendruber, Mary Lou Plambeck, Lorlie Larson, Yvonne Evans, Marjorie Brickley, Alice Jones, Carolyn Wells, Marjorie Brownlie, Marilyn Collins, Eloise Gagghagen, Doris Lange, Dorothy Keller, Leatrice Schurr, Jean Pollitz, Margery Saladay, Mrs. Innes.

Second row: Betty Ann Mischeel, Barbara Kimmel, Jean Van Dyke, Nelda Polson, Edythe Peart, Shirley Sander, Joyce Mulinaux, Jeanne Schlabach, Barbara Zoetkier, Beverly Lawless, Molly Whitaker, Ann Yeaton, Nancy Lee Campbell, Margery Johnson, Janet Hunt, Mary Ellen Porter, Dorothy Vrooman, Evelyn Zach, Phyllis Whistler, Evelyn Bates, Barbara Chartier, Leona Eckman, Betty Knecht.

Front row (left to right): George Aiken, Morgan Sanford, Paul Cunnick, Dorothy Schuller, George Thompson, Leland Hamilton, John Munson, James Munson, James Taylor, Robert Edwards, Jerry Eckhart, Lyle Kasper, Garwood Kleinhen, John Van Dyke, Clemens Cunnick, Warren Kabel, Robert Scott, Robert Meyer, Donald Shawver, Raynard Ball, Larry Smith, Oscar Gustafson.









#### KINDERGARTEN DEPARTMENT

Back row: Mrs. John McKeague, Karl Gunstrom, Walter Andrews, Bruce Shawver, Don Wilbert, Billy Baxter, Keith Bates, Marilyn McKee, JoAnn Tyler, Tommy LeBuhn, Kathleen Nissen, Tommy Rowland, Jimmie Lindsay, Sonny Jager, Kenny Alford, Isabel Hoag, Robert Lines, Paul McLain.

Fourth row: Mrs. Helen Jacobs, Donald Skinner, Elizabeth Parker, Nancy Acheson, Nonie Titus, Mary Lou Tornquist, Clair LaBarr, Philip LaBarr, Judy Benfer, Janet John, Mary Jane Barlow, Teddy Becker, Jane Tagge, Peggy Milota, LeRoy Turner, Billy McLaughlin, Franz McLaughlin.

Third row: Jean Weston, Mrs. Jerry Jager, Nancy Wells, Phillip Lines, David Gensicke, Virginia Baker, Richard Turner, Jimmy Rasmussen, David Williams, Janice Crouse, Barbara Lewis, Marguerite Schultz, Nancy Lee Tiedeman, Ann Parker, Nancy Breckenridge, Beckie Chartier, Bill Neil.

Second row: Genevieve Jacobs, Nancy Kruse, John Evans, Jimmie Gunstrom, Don Hoehn, Cynthia Kolb, John Jameson, Connie Conner, Christy Turner, Karol Rindler, Norma Jane White, Janet Cahoon, Susan Derry.

Front row (left to right): Mrs. L. E. Milota, Mrs. Cecil F. Cook, Supt.; Janine Karll, Mary Katherine Overback, Mary Frank, Geraldine Hoad, Mary Ellis Campbell, Mary Ann Van Houten, Beverly Peterson, Shirley May Batten, Shirley Tornquist, Mary Carolyn Schurr, Judy Kunzman, Carol Miller, Susan Tate.

#### PRE-NURSERY AND NURSERY DEPARTMENT

Standing: Mrs. H. H. Voris, Mrs. C. Fred Miller, Elizabeth Ann Moody, Mrs. Will F. Hunt.

Third row: Paula Jean Baker, Jo Ann Elkins, Sue Elkins, Lynn Makeever, Jon Erik Gustafson, Georgianna Paulsen, Buddy Van Brunt, Don Wagschal, Peter Richardson, Sieford Shultz.

Second row: Don O'Brien, Freddie Hird, Mary Carole Hird, Ruth Baker, Eloise Weir, George Van Houten, Mary Ann Whitted, John Ball, Thomas Edleman, John Edleman.

Front row (left to right): Bruce Williamson, Donna Lee Little, Carolyn Pennock, Nancy Sue Elerick, Bobby Leland, James Turnbull, James Porter, Judy Hill, Patricia Briggs, Beth Frank.







# I, II and III PRIMARY DEPARTMENTS

Back row: Paul Goodland, Jack Lambrecht, Charles Hawley, Howard Eller, Tommy Bowers, Gayer Wells, Zoann Wiegman, Patty Wren, Donna Lou Zinger, Gwen Makeever, Christine Munson, Martha Coleman, Ann Ervin, Donna Jean Dodson, Beverly Shannon, Sally Ann Kleinhen, Ann Matheson, Warren Jacobs, Carl LeBuhn, Jr., Billy Pollitz, Chuckie Van Maur, Joan Thompson, Patsy Benhart, Helen Haverkamp, Sally Zoeckler, Mary Ann Harsom, Lorna Collier, Harold "Skippy" Greene, David Rindler.

Fourth row: George Smiley, Charles Lorfeldt, Jr., Mrs. Dorothy Barlow, Herbie Tyler, Patty K. Stanley, Joy Ann Schick, Dorothy Knecht, Barbara Ward, Mary Lambrecht, Cathryn Turnbull, Molly Ryan, Betty Lou Meyers, Bobby Lind, Morris Sloan, Richard Hoard, Dickie Teegen, Mrs. Little, Edward White, Mrs. Haefner, Bill Zoeckler, Don Wernentin, Imogene Risse, Sally Ann Manley, Virginia Eastland, Kathryn Lage.

Third row: Bernice Spore Smith, LaVerne Lindberg, Charles Hoag, Bobby Eckhardt, Ward Shawver, Thomas Elkins, Mrs. W. F. Lathrop, Marjorie Frank, Shelia McMann, Mrs. J. Robert Lewis, Sarah Jo Porter, Barbara Jean McKown, Barbara Bassman, Roger Townsend, Sally Ann Carlson, Carol Wren, John Bates, Ramon Ackley, Marjorie Lewis, Margaret Haefner, Jay Barrett, Irene Dettler, Doris Faulk, Jane Cowan, Mrs. Christy Turner, James Watt, Wayne Moulder, Mary Lou Horner, Beverly Gustafson, Katherine True, Jimmy Zoeckler, Ruby Chisel.

Second row: Mrs. M. E. Makeever, Douglas Brown, George Wells, Elizabeth Cunningham, Donna Lou Meese, Nancy Jill Naeckel, Jerry Pennewell, Joann Hoffman, Judith Zoeckler, David Makeever, Richard Wells, Paul Dennis, Jr., Joyce Ann Rittenhouse, Otis Wagschal, Dorothy Papes, Billy LeBuhn, Ervin Turner, Dicky Von Maur, Robert Patterson, Jack Moriarty, Edward Sothmann, Don Rosche, Bob Skinner, Frances Lathrop, Betty Lam's, Norma Jean Engle, Margaret Horner, Dickie Karwath.

Front row (left to right): Clara Lou Sanford, Mrs. E. C. Heuck, David McGarvey, James Haverkamp, James Hawley, Dorothea Hinze, Jerry Quigg, Kenneth Wells, Dicky Jordan, Anna Lou Janssen, Janice Cherry, Richard Dennis, Barbara Woodward, Ann Grazier, Mary Sue Jacobs, Bobbie Lee Danico, Jacqueline McKee, Shirley Hoffman, Jane Miller, Jane Harder, Susan Healy, Marjorie Evans, Junior Risse, Jack Lind, Larry Daniels, Je n Ogden, Wally Overback, Nancy Powell, Suzanne Tagge, Russell Meyer, George Tornquist, Jeanette Rosene, Mrs. F. C. Goodland, Mrs. Roy McClain.









#### SENIOR DEPARTMENT

Back row: Charles Urmey, Arthur Parke, Wm. Weston, Wm. Shannon, Fred Hunt, Dick Nobis, Robert Doty, Bob Bowers, Bill Johnson, Kenneth Schlabach, Charles Witt, Merle Van Epps.

Fifth row: Jack Kronstedt, Delmar Ruth, Jack Quigg, Tom Nobis, Carrolton Cunnick, Don McDonald, Bill Betty, Fred Minard, Joe Kimmel, Kenneth Urmey, Harry Almond.

Fourth row: Ruby Jane Moody, Janet Howard, Shirley Moore, Virginia Fidyke, Barbara Horton, Adelaide Arndt, Jane Shipton, Armilda Platner, C. J. Lundquist, Charles Munson.

Third row: Martha Lightner, Donna Leatherman, Marcia Rozema, Marilyn Muliniaux, Jean Rogers, Jean Watson, Jean Louise Thuenen, Mary Green, Virginia Challis, Fred Nordengren.

Second row: Jenny Howard, Marjorie Ross, Delores Whistler, Mary Louise Zuill, Marilyn Davis, Betty Ann Frazier, Betty May Jones, Mary Soller, Dorothy Porter, Marian Miller, Rose Margaret Spore, Shirley Mason, Mrs. Chas. Whelpley.

Front row (left to right): Marjorie Grove, Betty Wood, Betty Bowling, Glenelyn Lawless, Arline Melby, Betty Jane Tomson, Mrs. C. J. Ackerman, Mary Schmidt, Alice Margaret Halton, Betty Mae Platner, Mary Lou Bowers, Mary Jane Daniels, Ruth Rosene.

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#### YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT

Back row: Norman Ringstrom, Reimer Knouse, Don Klein, Morris Munson.

Fourth row: Henrietta Brownlie, Janice Buchwalter, Jean Hackett, Dorothy Pickernel, Dorothy Petersen.

Third row: Patricia Baker, Carma Gruenau, Mary Johnston, Mary Watson, Marie Mass, Jeanne Paul, Charlotte Reimers, Stuart Cubbage.

Second row: Ruthann Fries, Fern Dillig, Marian Frazier, Dorothy Ulrich, Dorothy Witt, Betty Hage, Warren Booth.

Front row (left to right): Cyrus Spear, Ernie Heuck, Jr., Teacher; Robert Bates, Tom Overett, Bill Weck, John Innes, Wayne Arthur.







# JUNIOR DEPARTMENT

Back row: Ethel Aves, Clara Eckermann, Mrs. Paul C. Cunick, Claire Eckermann, Mrs. Joyce Gustafson, Lois White, Nelle Risse, Richard Baird, James Soladay, Robert Madden, Wendell Beintema, John Cunick, Gerald Gaghagen, Francis Shawyer, Larry McMahon, Wayne Morehead, Ray Bossen.  
 Fifth row: Mrs. O. L. Gustafson, Mrs. Donald Van Brunt, Dolores Wilkerson, Ellen Hahner, Sully Ryan, Charlotte Bates, Donna Lou Paulson, Jacqueline Moulder, Susanna Tornquist, Patricia Chesebro, Jacqueline Moore, Kathryn Kimmel, Lucille Tuerk, Dorothy Pyle, Virginia Bentler, Dorothy Risse, Marvin Johnson, Richard Barton, James Morgan, Donald Miller.  
 Fourth row: Mrs. K. L. Gunstrom, Betty Ball, Geraldine Collier, Lois McCord, Jane Ann Gierke, Eileen Weir, Georgia Powell, Patty Titus, Barbara Melby, Geraldine Williamson, Maxine Pitchforth, Martha Nichols, Marcia Colombo, Vera Stuehmer, Marilyn Witt, Lois Miller, Evelyn Hage, Bill Burda, George Henderson, Richard Lamb, William Davis, Fred Campbell.  
 Third row: Lois Birthess, Carla Schmielau, Betty Gallagher, Lennah Jane Hampton, Roma Lee Porter, Mary Marie Ruehmann, Alice Mansfield, George Crawford, William Christianson, Keith Charlier, Jack Thomas.  
 Second row: Robert Baird, Janet Brown, Janet Nobis, Dorothy Ann Mueller, Janet Kinner, Janice Glaspell, Kay Wahle, Maureen Wernentin, Jack Kuehl, Janis Larson, June Polsen, Jacqueline Hauschild, Ann Winchell, Helen Winchell, Louise Johnston, Mary Louise Lathrop, Virgene Pennsawell, Robert Minard, Morvin Mulford, Donald LeBuhn, Arthur Dedson, Donald Edwards.  
 Front row (left to right): Norris Rider, John Matheson, Bob Rowland, Richard Varis, Bruce McGarvey, Louis Van Houten, Robert Witt, Duane Grabman, Robert Jacobs, Allan Anderson, Bill Borrett, Tony Richardson, John Hatchitt, Walter Eckhardt, Howard Townsend, Tom Wentworth, Jack Zoeckler, David Bowers, Ray Petersen, Matthew Thompson, Roy Wm. McLain, Jr., William Baker, Eugene Morehead, Wallace Evans, Jack Lange, Donald Gaghagen.









#### O. E. CLASS

Back row: Ella Soenke, Mrs. Charles O. Greenlee, Mrs. Lucille Arnett, Thelma Holm, Roberta Ray, Mrs. Everett Gensicke, Leona Eckmann, O. E. Johnson, Teacher for 25 years; Mrs. W. Leroy Hoehn, Lucille Forrest, Mrs. Raymond John, Mrs. Ed Hoffmann, Mrs. E. W. Haefner, Mrs. Harold H. Beintema.

Second row: Mrs. Charles W. Hoag, Mrs. Geo. R. Havercamp, Mrs. Robert Wren, Mrs. Clarence Moulder, Mrs. John Watt, Lucille Burianek, Bernice Eckmann, Mrs. H. L. Peterson, Norma Shado.

Front row (left to right): Mrs. Earl Papenbrock, Mrs. Fred Hird, Dorothy Kroy, Mrs. Ray Knecht, Mrs. H. F. Engle, Grace Henley, Mary Strohhahn, Camilla Peto.

#### DEO JUVANTE CLASS

Back row: Virginia Quigg, Dorothy Horn, Alberta Lowenberg, Carolyn Zimmerman, Margaret Spore, Minnie Kistenmacher, Ann Speer, Naomi Whisler, Ethel McKee, Norma Salken, Augusta Westphal, Mary Catherine Weck, Ruth Overett, Lois Weston.

Front row (left to right): Ethel Fries, Margaret Barker, Ruby Liggett, Ruth Ferguson, Mrs. A. S. Nickless, Teacher; Edna Armstrong, Helen Van Sant, Margaret Richardson, Vera Kinzle, Alfreda Zarges, Evelyn Rasche.









#### AMBASSADOR CLASS

Back row: Mrs. G. M. Kloppenburg, Mrs. L. Renner, Mrs. C. Rundquist, Mrs. M. Sparks, Mrs. G. V. Robinson, Mrs. W. Wissler, Mrs. C. Grayson, Mrs. D. Van Brunt, Mrs. H. McLaughlin, Mrs. D. Healey, Mrs. C. Findley, Mrs. M. Danielson, Mrs. W. Purvis, Mrs. Loran Day.

Front row (left to right): Don Healey, Charles Grayson, Waldo Wissler, Cliff Jordan, Maurice Sparks, G. V. Robinson, L. Renner, Loran Day, Charles Whelpley, Dr. A. S. Nickless, Teacher; Dr. C. Findley, Wm. Purvis, Howard McLaughlin, D. Van Brunt.



#### 1914 FIDELIS CLASS

Back row: Lettie Dennis, Olive Whitlock, Mrs. G. S. Johnson, Alma Stafford, Eloise Cram, Lois Lockart.

Front row (left to right): Alpha Walker Witt, Frances White, Vera Stuehmer, Mary Finley Golden, May McDonald Bowling, Hazel Steffe Weise.

#### FIDELIS CLASS

Back row: Charlotte Carson, Cora Wilson, Mrs. Stephenson, Elsa Wallace, Margaret West, Ethel Booth, Elizabeth Martin, Vera Stuehmer, Mrs. May Bowling, Mrs. Bea Burnette, Ethel Lowry, Ella White, Mrs. Grant Rice.

Front row (left to right): Hazel Seltzer, Mrs. Ada Widdrington, Mrs. Dorothy Van Epps, Zula Wilson, Jennie Burton, Mrs. G. S. Johnson, Teacher for 33 years; Alma Stafford, Pearl Shaw, Orra Kerr, Elizabeth Jonas.









#### 1938 A. K. BIBLE CLASS

Back row (left to right): Stewart Cabbage, Walter Schwieder, Bob Wren, Matt Merrill, Gene McKown, W. L. Reynolds, Rod Van Scoy, Merle Van Epps, Hobart Whitmore, E. J. Newel, Hale Engle, Bob Lewis, Lee Turnbull, C. J. Ackerman, Dick Hampton.

Fifth row: Karl Madden, Ray Bossen, Ed. Hoffman, Don Acheson, Byron Kunzman, W. G. Percy, Norris Rider, Frank Osman, J. C. Arnett, Jr., Tom Harris, Jesse Day, H. H. Voris, Cliff Johnston, Roy Klove.

Fourth row: Garwood Kleinhen, Dr. A. A. Plagman, Clarence Fowler, H. A. Searcy, H. H. Beintema, Dr. Theo. Tueckes, Bob Armil, George White, M. H. Jones, Chas. Parmele, R. P. Nall, Ben Wells, Duane Leamer, LaVerne Flambo, Jerry Jager.

Third row: Ernie Hueck, Dave Richardson, Theo. Lorenzen, Paul Krotzer, Merle Makeever, Ed. Hamann, Art Hoepner, Fay Goodland, Martin Leir, Charles Baker, Thad. Hays, John Wilson, Allan Stebbins.

Second row: Ray Wain, W. R. Johnson, O. P. Millard, Harry Lane, H. R. Timmerman, Ab. Firth, Walter Parker, Earl Bowers, Allen Sass, Dr. J. C. Peart, Russ Meyer, John Baumann, William Falconer, Harvey Bates.

Front row: H. E. Livermore, C. R. Tueffel, Dr. Harry Rosche, Finley McGinnis, Mervin Kerslake, C. A. Hulse, Bob Hornback, Dr. A. S. Nickless, Ben Zoekler, Lew Milota, Arno Tagge, Howard Eckerman, Bob Lind, Lee Moorhead, Caesar Salato, Elmer Nordstrom, Elbert Ball, M. W. Heskett, Arnold Meyer, Don Shawver, Howard Makeever, Glenn Beavers, Paul Tornquist, N. E. Kennard, Al. Brickley, P. Hintze, Don Miller, N. H. Ringstrom, Harold Falconer, Harold Mizener, Floyd Whitted, William Kruse.

#### WESTMINSTER CLASS

Back row: Arthur Holstrom, Mrs. G. E. Senty, Mrs. Gould Jones, Mrs. N. B. Hage, P. C. Cunnick, Mrs. G. S. Pitchforth, George Innes, Teacher for 17 years; Lottie McGinnis, Mrs. Norman Ringstrom, Mrs. W. I. Walker, Mrs. Clifford Baxter, Mrs. Warren Porter, Clarence Schutter.

Center row (seated): Mrs. P. C. Cunnick, Mrs. Leland Turnbull, Mrs. Blair Johnson, Mrs. E. C. Heuck, Mrs. P. H. McGinnis, Mrs. John Peart.

Front row (left to right): Harold McIntosh, Mrs. Harold McIntosh, A. R. Scott, Mrs. Hamlet Hall, Mrs. Fred Shaw, Mrs. C. L. Reigel, Mrs. Fred Farnsworth, Mrs. J. Ross Lee, Mrs. Wallace Easson, N. B. Hage, Mrs. Clarence Schutter, Mrs. L. A. Block, Mrs. J. W. Henshaw, Mrs. C. W. Haefner, Mrs. R. G. Harder.









#### 1938 BROTHERHOOD BIBLE CLASS

Back row (left to right): A. D. Hills, W. H. Ferren, Dr. C. H. Findley, F. W. Noack, L. A. McCleary, F. A. Forkner, Frank Lightner.

Fifth row: Burdick N. Richardson, P. T. Burrows, Rev. M. E. Krotzer, J. T. Rath, F. S. Hutchison, Alfred Parsons, E. C. Heuck, C. A. Davis, H. W. Hubers, H. R. Lietz, C. E. Anderson, W. A. Carson.

Fourth row: Dr. W. F. Hunt, J. H. Thuenen, W. E. Crawford, E. C. Beedee, A. E. Huntley, W. I. Walker, S. H. Moorhead, H. W. Decker, T. J. Cowan, J. F. Welsh, T. O. Townsend, Alfred Ploog, E. A. Chrisman.

Third row: W. P. Ammerman, J. H. Daniels, H. B. Bartlett, C. S. Lewis, G. T. Havens, Ted Anthony, Jesse Hamm, Fred Wyman, W. E. Jones, Fred Garstang, J. P. Hand, Dr. S. G. Hands, Don McDonald, Rev. John Baird, W. H. Bicker.

Second row: J. H. Rouse, F. M. Goddard, Dr. C. R. Baker, C. A. Piper, E. J. Stephenson, F. M. Hathaway, W. L. Heysinger, A. T. Danico, R. W. Cram, A. E. Dannatt.

Front row: A. R. Bawden, G. L. Crawford, E. H. Hoehn, E. A. Springer, F. J. Glueck, L. W. McKown, T. H. Marsland, J. C. Shenk, A. I. Naumann, H. B. Moorhead, G. A. Wieneke, N. S. Plank, H. J. Lytle.

#### 1909 BROTHERHOOD CLASS

Back row (left to right): George Hinos, A. W. Tschantz, F. A. Boggs, J. W. Betty, R. P. Redfield, R. H. Harned, Mr. Bergren (front), Lynott Gilbert (back), W. J. Gordon, Prof. J. B. Young, A. A. Miller, C. E. Adams, Fred Wyman, . . . . . Frank F. Betty, Alfred Spink, John Thompson, Morgan Reimers.

Second row: W. L. Heysinger, M. H. Holliday, Thomas Carson, Ed A. Doam, Mr. Block, M. M. Rice, F. A. Weissner, . . . . . Mr. Grumsley, Capt. H. W. Gilbert, . . . . . L. W. McKown.

Front row: F. D. Sisson, M. N. Richardson, Wm. Culbertson, J. A. Utts, Dr. L. M. Coffman (teacher), J. T. Easson, E. A. Horrigan, C. C. McIntyre, W. W. Graham.







BEHIND THESE YEARS—at the other end of the century—stands a little log cabin and ten bare-handed pioneers. What has transformed these meager beginnings into a Church of 1500 communicants worshipping in a comfortable sanctuary? Share with us the adventures of the frontiersmen and the triumphs of the builders. They stand BEHIND THESE YEARS.



The First Presbyterian Church had its beginning in the days when the only buildings in Davenport were log cabins. Worship services were held in cabin homes or schools or shops until the Tippecanoe Cabin was built at Third and Main Streets in 1840. This cabin was sometimes called the Presbyterian church.





# INTO THE WILDERNESS

## Chapter I

Davenport, 1838

Among the travel-worn passengers on the horse ferry stood a sandy-haired young man solemnly studying the village across the Mississippi. A dozen new log houses were clustered near the river, among them a rough frame house, a store, a hotel and a saloon. On the bluff above them curled the smoke from the campfires of the Sac and Fox Indians, who were still waiting to be paid for the land they were vacating according to the Black Hawk treaty.



**Michael Hummer.** As soon as the young man could disinentangle himself from the household goods of the other settlers, he went to the hotel.

"Well," said Samuel Barkley, the landlord, "I am mighty glad to meet you, Mr. Hummer. The folks have just been wishing a parson would settle here. Of what persuasion are you?"

"I am a Presbyterian," gravely answered the young man. "Are there no other ministers in the settlement?"

"Not a one. I am not a church man myself, but my wife is a Presbyterian. Everybody turns out whenever there is preaching."

"Who are the ministers that visit Davenport?"

**Enoch Mead.** "The only Presbyterian that comes very often is Brother Mead, a farmer living about five miles

west of town. He is mighty well educated, too. Fact is, they claim he was the second man ever to preach a sermon in Davenport. A Methodist by the name of Gavit is supposed to be the first."

"Where are the services usually held?"

"Sometimes in the homes and sometimes in Tom Hoge's store or D. C. Eldridge's blacksmith shop."

"Are there any schools here?"

"Yes, Miss Marianna Hall has started one in her home. But there are not many children old enough for school because most of the settlers are newly married. When will your family arrive?"

"My wife will stay in Stephenson for the present."

**Presbyterians Meet.** Before nightfall the whole settlement knew of The Rev. Mr. Hummer's arrival, and plans were made for services on the Sabbath. The first Presbyterian services in Davenport had been held by The Rev. Enoch Mead, April 22, 1838, in a small building above the alley on Ripley Street between Second and Front Streets.

The Rev. Mr. Hummer soon started a private school, probably in this same building. His log schoolroom was usually open for worship on Sunday, and in it he preached many an eloquent sermon. He sometimes held services in other neighborhoods, as a volunteer missionary.



It was he who arranged for the organization of The Presbyterian Church in January, 1839, \*the first Protestant church in Davenport. He was assisted by The Rev. Enoch Mead and The Rev. Ithamar Pillsbury of Andover, Illinois.

**Ithamar Pillsbury.** When The Rev. Mr. Pillsbury received the invitation to this service, his horse was not at his home and it was time to start. Although he knew that 26 miles of rugged trail stretched between Andover and Davenport and that there would be little chance of catching a ride for even a part of the trip, he set off a-foot. When he arrived at Rock River, the water was too deep for him to wade. The nearest farm house was two miles away, but the farmer sent his son with a wagon to set the minister across.

At the Mississippi the ferry was tied up on the opposite shore and the ferryman could not be raised by shouting. The Rev. Mr. Pillsbury took off his shirt and waved it in vain. Finally, he began to sing the Doxology loudly enough that he was heard by the waiting congregation.

"That's the minister," they said, and hurried to find the ferryman.

The Rev. Mr. Pillsbury soon landed on the Iowa shore. The text from which he preached that day was: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized, shall be saved; but he that believeth not, shall be damned."

## Charter Members

The ten men and women who bound themselves together that day

\*Other dates reported are the spring of 1838 and Jan., 1839.

to form the new organization, had come from several communities with widely differing religious customs and traditions. But they were determined to work together that they might have a church home.

There was **Mrs. Ann Rhea Mitchell**, a Kentuckian of the old Covenanter stock, who had lived in Alabama for a few years. She and her husband, Nathaniel, were living on a farm west of the village, while their son Gilbert (later known as Judge G. C. R. Mitchell), practiced law in Davenport. As Mrs. Mitchell was one of the few older women in the settlement, she was known as "Mother" Mitchell.



Mrs. Ann Mitchell, charter member of the church, saved it from collapse. Affectionately known as "Mother" Mitchell.





She was truly a mother to the young church and to many a homesick bride or young mother who needed counsel and encouragement. She died here in 1848.

**Mrs. Jemima Barkley** and her husband, Samuel, with at least two children, Samuel K. and Charlotte, were from Pennsylvania. For a while they operated the Davenport hotel, but Mr. Barkley lived only a few years. The Davenport directory of 1858 showed Mrs. Barkley as a widow running a boarding house at 75 East Front Street. She passed away suddenly two years later at the age of sixty-one, being survived but a short time by these two children.

**Dr. and Mrs. Alexander C. Donaldson** were from Ohio. He was one of the first physicians in the village, and also an alderman on the first city council. He had a good practice but the patients found it almost impossible to pay for his services. He took up a claim and did some farming but soon became discouraged and moved to St. Louis and later to California.

**Mr. and Mrs. Andrew F. Russell** When Dr. Donaldson resigned from the town council on May 4, 1839, he was succeeded by Andrew F. Russell who served until, as borough surveyor, he discovered that he lived outside the corporation. That summer he was town assessor, receiving six dollars for his services. He and Mrs. Russell, both Presbyterians, soon returned to Pennsylvania.

**Mr. and Mrs. Thomas S. Hoge**, on the other hand, adapted themselves to the life of the frontier and made a good living from a general merchandise store. Mr. Hoge belonged to the Young Men's Literary Association, debating on such timely subjects as: "Would it be good policy for the

United States government to exercise immediate jurisdiction over the Oregon Territory?" In 1842 he was a candidate for the office of county treasurer, but he soon moved to Galena, Illinois, and later to New York.

**Mr. and Mrs. Robert Christie**, from Ohio, lived east of Davenport. As Justice of the Peace, Mr. Christie performed several marriage ceremonies, one of which united Miss Mary Hedges and Daniel N. Pope (relative of Miss Hetta Pope, a present member of the church).

After the death of Mrs. Christie, Mr. Christie was married to Mrs. Lucy G. W. Hoge, widow of David Hoge and sister-in-law to Thomas Hoge. Mr. Christie then moved to East Davenport, where he operated a saw and planing mill at the foot of the street that now bears his name, and he lived in the large square house just east of the Pierce school. When he had been active in the church and community for nearly twenty years, and had lost his second wife, Mr. Christie moved to Fort Scott, Kansas.

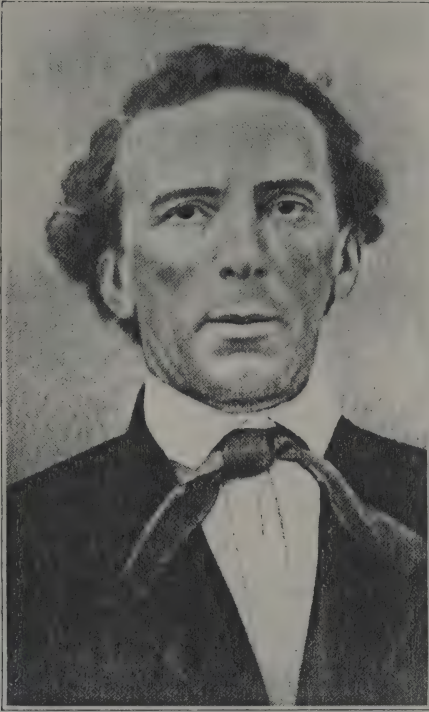
**Officers.** These ten people constituted the Presbyterian Church of Davenport, which chose Dr. Donaldson and Thomas Hoge as ruling elders and engaged The Rev. Michael Hummer as the first minister.

How joyously solemn was the occasion! These whole-souled men and women were bound together in a sacred covenant sealed with the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Now that they belonged to a church they began to feel at home.

**Mr. and Mrs. Burrows.** Ere the summer had passed, John McDowell Burrows and his bride, Sarah Meeker Burrows, arrived from Cincinnati bringing their membership letters. Mr.







J. M. D. Burrows, first Ruling Elder, ordained at the age of 28. He was a member of the First Church from 1839 to 1889.

Burrows was ordained ruling elder by The Rev. Ithamar Pillsbury. Both he and Mrs. Burrows were outstanding figures in the church for half a century. They were the grandparents of Mr. Parke T. Burrows.

**Discord.** At the end of six months, The Rev. Mr. Hummer's ministry was terminated because he had become unbalanced on the subject of spiritualism and was intolerant of anyone who disagreed. Then the church was entirely without leadership, for the men chosen as ruling elders declined to serve. For many months there were no Presbyterian services except when

some minister came to visit. The members were losing interest, and some joined the new Congregational Church, and others moved away.

Finally, Thomas Hoge and J. M. D. Burrows decided to put life into the organization. In 1842 they set out into the wilderness to visit all the Presbyterians in the county, inviting them to a meeting in Mr. Hoge's home. They were gone two weeks, but they aroused interest.

**Union.** On the appointed day, the Presbyterians came, and with them, the Congregationalists. They said, "If all of us work together, we will be able to support a church."

With prayer and deliberation a union was affected. Three elders were chosen, Thomas Hoge and J. M. D. Burrows to represent the Presbyterians, and Rudolphus Bennett, the Congregationalists. Then a fund was started for building a house of worship and securing a minister.

"The Presbyterian lion and the Congregational lamb had lain down together; the only trouble being that the lamb was inside the lion." So The Rev. Asa Turner, a Congregational missionary, thought a few weeks later, when he heard what had happened. Full of indignation, he came immediately to Davenport and called together the former members of his flock, persuading them to try once more to support their own church with assistance from their Home Mission Board.

**New Settlers.** Nevertheless, the disheartened Presbyterians were determined to carry on. Several members had moved away, but their places had been taken by such people as Gilbert and David McKown, John Dal-

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zell and his sons James and Matthew, Mrs. Eleanor Jane McManus, Charles C. Williams and Daniel T. Newcomb.

Their spirits were further revived by two elders who came to visit from Jackson county, riding fifty miles on their farm horses over the undeveloped trails, arriving here on Saturday night, attending communion services on the Sabbath, and setting off for home at daybreak on Monday morning.

**Sanctuaries.** The church services had been held in the homes or in large rooms such as a carpenter shop, the print shop of the *Iowa Sun*, or the Burrows' pork house. These places, that resounded during the week with the noises of labor, were swept on Saturday night and fitted with benches improvised by laying clean boards across nail kegs or saw-horses.

Now the usual place of worship was the Tippecanoe cabin on the southwest corner of Third and Main Streets (site of the Davenport Bank Building). While it was used for many civic and religious services, this cabin was sometimes called the Presbyterian Church because that denomination met there so frequently.

**Mud.** As yet there were only a few board sidewalks in town and the streets were without adequate drainage. One Sunday, after heavy rains, J. M. D. Burrows went from house to house in his wagon to gather up the worshipers of the village. On the way to the church with his load, the wagon got stuck in the mud. As the horses plunged forward to pull it out, the king-bolt broke, letting the front wheels go on with the team. The front end of the wagon bed dropped to the ground, hurling the driver into

the mud on all fours. Gathering himself up and brushing the worst of the dirt from his best Cincinnati suit, Mr. Burrows carried the children and smaller women to firm ground. But as he was not a large man, some of the buxom matrons had to pick their way over the stepping stones he placed for them.

**Samuel Cleland.** One autumn day in 1842 a Presbyterian minister, with his wife and a half dozen children, arrived in Davenport. The Rev. Samuel Cleland, of Scotch descent, was born in Ireland, August 16, 1798, and was educated in Belfast and Glasgow. He had been in pastoral work in Ohio and had come to invest his life in the new territory then being settled.

He began at once to hold preaching services and was soon engaged as stated supply minister for the Presbyterian Church of Davenport. As he was an able speaker, he was invited to address a number of organizations.

**Building.** Three Protestant denominations had erected houses of worship the preceding summer — Episcopal, Baptist and Methodist. With The Rev. Mr. Cleland living in their midst, the Presbyterians now felt encouraged to build one also.

The generous-spirited Mr. Antoine LeClaire had given them a town lot near the river, just as he had done with several other denominations. However, as it seemed unwise to build a church in the center of the business section, the lot was sold, and at an added cost of \$150, a more suitable one was purchased on the north side of Third Street between Harrison and Main (where the Central Office Building now stands). There, a little brick chapel measuring twenty by thirty feet was started at once.







The Rev. Samuel Cleland, Stated Supply Minister, 1842-46, served two churches at a total salary of \$400 a year.

What courage and faith these pioneers showed in this undertaking!

Money was so scarce on the frontier that most trade was carried on by barter. The only cash crop was wheat and the acreage was small. Payments on the land were falling due and could not be paid in produce. Interest on borrowed money was ten per cent or higher.

Fortunately, the earnestness of a people is not measured by the money it has. The Presbyterians felt that a church was necessary and they were willing to sacrifice to build one.

**Little Chapel.** One spring day Mrs. J. M. D. Burrows wrote to her husband who was away on business. She said: "Mr. Williams has been up carting sand around the church. He says they are to have it finished so as to hold meeting in it a week from Sunday."

The *Gazette* of Thursday, June 8, 1843, brought good news to the parish: "NOTICE—Religious services will for the first time be attended upon in the Presbyterian Church on Sabbath next at half past 10 o'clock."

Happiness shone on the faces that greeted each other at the new little chapel that Sunday morning. What though there were as yet no windows! What though the rafters were still exposed to view and the carpenter's workbench remained in one corner of the sanctuary! Cushioned pews never seated a more serenely contented congregation than sat that morning on the benches made from unplanned slabs with rough-hewn underpinnings. Each worshiper was confident that sometime, some way, the chapel would be finished and paid for.

Unfortunately, this optimism was badly shattered when The Rev. Mr. Cleland moved across the river in November, 1843, to take charge of the Rock Island Presbyterian Church. He arranged to serve both the Rock Island and Davenport church, his salary of \$400 a year coming half from each parish.

The minister crossed the Mississippi on the ice in winter and by ferry in summer, except when the water was rough—then he made his precarious passage in the staunch yawl of a friend, sometimes getting a good wetting enroute.





**Dark Days.** At the end of the year the Davenport church did not renew the agreement because it could not raise the money for his salary. Nevertheless, The Rev. Mr. Cleland continued to minister to the parish. Occasionally, The Rev. Enoch Mead or Mr. W. Woodward preached in the little chapel, also.

Much as these volunteer services were appreciated, the church was not keeping pace with the growth of the town. In fact, seven years after the organization, there were only seventeen members. The chapel was still unfinished with the rafters and rough benches staring in stark ugliness. The mortgage was due and there was no money with which to pay it.

What could be done? Some of the members were ready to disband and let the creditors have the building. But not Mother Mitchell, who said to Mr. Burrows, "You and I will stick to it as long as there is a shingle on it!"

Because of her perseverance and faith the congregation undertook, resolutely, to finish the chapel and clear the debt. Lumber was furnished by James M. Dalzell and paint by Mr. Burrows, while Robert McCloskey did the carpenter work. At last, in the summer of 1846, it was completed and furnished with homemade pews and pulpit.

**Charles Williams.** The same summer Charles C. Williams was chosen to serve with J. M. D. Burrows as ruling elder. He was also helpful in the church music as he was a "sweet singer."

**Sunday School.** For four years the Presbyterians had helped to conduct the union Sunday school, but they wanted one of their own. With the completion of the sanctuary they

started one, with such enthusiasm, under the leadership of Mr. Williams, that it has continued to flourish even to the present time. He served as superintendent until his death from cholera in 1852.

In the Sabbath schools of those days the pupils were divided into a few classes, each group reading or reciting in concert. They repeated the Scripture passages memorized during the week, and at the end of the year the



Collecting properties for the Centennial Pageant, Floyd Whitted finds in the City Museum the homemade pulpit used in the Third Street Chapel. On it he has placed the Bible used by the Rev. Mr. Cleland, while in the background is the photograph of Professor J. B. Young, for many years Ruling Elder and Superintendent of the Sunday School.





Tippecanoe cabin, built in 1840 at Third and Main streets, was used by the Presbyterians as a house of worship until 1843.

child who had memorized the most verses was awarded a Bible. The children of the frontier enjoyed their Sunday school, especially the singing.

As hymn books were scarce, the leader would read two lines and then lead in singing them. In this way the entire hymn was "lined". The leader was also free to choose the tune for there was usually no music printed in the books. The children memorized the words, and many adults of today remember hearing them sing in their declining years the hymns they learned in these Sabbath schools of long ago.

**Releasing the Minister.** The little church now decided to secure a resident minister, and delegated Mr. Burrows to inform the beloved Rev. Mr. Cleland that his services would no longer be needed. He invited the clergyman to spend the night in his home, the two men sharing a bed. When the lights were out, the young elder told of the decision.

Many years afterwards Mr. Burrows said, "I could not bear to look the saintly man in the face while delivering such a distasteful message; so I chose the dark."

**George S. Rea.** That autumn, 1846, The Rev. George S. Rea of Pennsylvania came as stated supply minister for this church and the new one at Berlin (LeClaire). A few months later he was married in Davenport to

Miss Sarah Ann Kistler of Perry county, Pennsylvania. During his ministry the church membership increased to thirty.

In a historical sermon, "Presbyterianism in Davenport—Its Foundation, Establishment and Growth," printed in the *Davenport Gazette* of July 24, 1876, Dr. Charles D. Nott gives this comment on The Rev. Mr. Rea: "This gentleman, after remaining about two years, proved to be a very bad man. He was expelled from the church and was drummed out of town, some of our best citizens taking part in the affair."

What a blow for the struggling little church! No sooner had the outlook begun to brighten than this outlook should occur.

**Erastus Ripley.** Upon the departure of The Rev. Mr. Rea, The Rev. Erastus Ripley, Senior Professor of the new little Iowa College, was engaged to preach a few months in 1849. He found the church with a membership of thirty, and three more were added soon. Memories of this godly man were cherished long after he had moved, along with the college, to Grinnell, Iowa.

With the ministry of The Rev. Mr. Ripley, the frontier was receding, and with the coming of The Rev. J. D. Mason as resident pastor, the wilderness was subdued.

Little brick chapel, built in 1843 at 232 West Third street, was the first house of worship owned by the Presbyterians in the city of Davenport.







Davenport Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> 1849—

According to previous notice a meeting of the members and congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Davenport, was held at the house of Mr Burrows, — Mr Rea called to the Chair. CC Parry Secretary. The object of the meeting was stated to be, "to take the requisite steps for securing a charter to the church aforesaid."

A motion was passed, "that this church be known under the name and style of "The First Presbyterian Church of Davenport." —

Proceeding to the election of Trustees, the following persons were duly chosen, Mr Jas. Renwick, Mr Enos Tichnor, and Mr Jas M Dalzell, the latter gentleman also in the capacity of Treasurer. It was then moved, that the Trustees elect be a committee to prepare a Constitution and By laws for the regulation of this society and present the same at the next meeting, on the following Tuesday evening called and then adjourn

Res<sup>d</sup> G. F. Rea "   
 Chairman

CC Parry Secretary



The Iowa law became effective requiring all organizations to be incorporated in order to hold property, and the Presbyterian Church decided, January 9, 1849, to comply by adopting the name "First Presbyterian Church of Davenport". The first Trustees were James Renwick, Enos Tichnor, and James M. Dalzell, who also was Treasurer. These minutes have been preserved on a loose sheet of writing paper in the handwriting of Dr. Charles Christopher Parry, the eminent physician and scientist who was commissioned as botanist on the expedition that established the boundary between Texas and Mexico. His second wife was a sister to Mr. Dalzell.







Left: Mr. and Mrs. James B. Mason. He was a son of the Rev. James D. Mason, and was church treasurer for many years.

Right: Mrs. Elisha (Joanna G.) Burrows, daughter-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. D. Burrows, with three of her grandchildren, in 1912: Mildred LaVenture (left), William LaVenture (right), and Camilla Burrows. The LaVenture children are also great-grandchildren of the Rev. and Mrs. James D. Mason.



Left: Children of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph W. Cram, in 1908, (left to right): Eloise, Ralph, Mary and Margaret. They are the grandchildren of the Rev. and Mrs. James D. Mason.



## UP THE HILL

### Chapter II

"Now the house is as clean as a pin," said Mrs. McManus.



"It ought to be, with all of us scrubbing at it," said Mrs. McKown.

"I am sure Sister Mason will appreciate all we have done," said Mrs. Burrows.

"I wish we had a parsonage for them to move into," sighed Mrs. Williams.

"As hard as times have been, we are fortunate to have the church finished," said Mrs. Barkley.

"Will a Disciple be in the way?" greeted Mrs. Eldridge as she arrived. "I am just as glad as if it were our own minister coming. Here are some spareribs from the hog we butchered this morning."

"The Rev. and Mrs. Mason will like them just as well as if they were from a Presbyterian pig," Mrs. Newcomb assured her.

"Do you think they can stand some Congregational bread and apple butter?" was the greeting from Mrs. Collings.

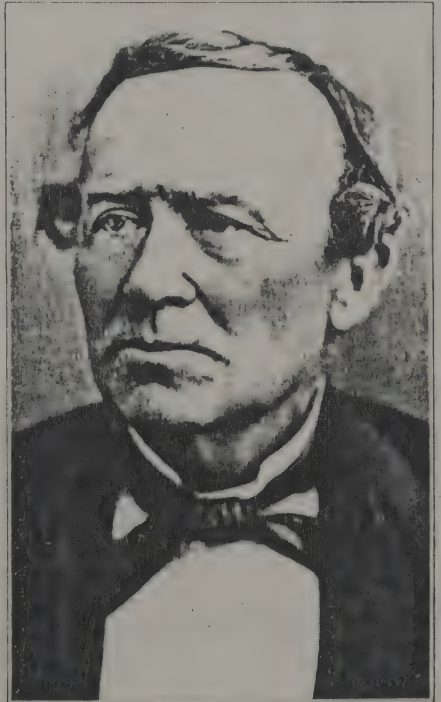
"Has anyone gone to meet the stage?" asked Mrs. Kinkad.

"Yes, Dr. Parry and James Renwick are there," answered Mrs. Daltzell.

**James D. Mason.** Such was the spirit with which The Rev. James

Dinsmore Mason and his family were welcomed to Davenport early in November, 1849. He was then 37 years old, and his wife, Ann Blaine Mason (aunt to James G. Blaine, the Secretary of State), was one year younger.

They had at that time a five-year old son, James Blaine Mason. During their ministry in this church five more children were born to them, three of whom grew to maturity, Margaret



The Rev. James D. Mason, first Pastor, 1849-59, also served as saddle bag missionary to the surrounding young Presbyterian churches.





## BEHIND THESE YEARS

Blaine (Mrs. William LaVenture), Anna Belle (Mrs. Robert Hunter Nott, whose husband was a brother to a later pastor of this church), and John Burrows Mason. Among their descendants still living in Davenport are Mrs. Ralph W. Cram, Mrs. Margaret Herrick, Mrs. Louis Kloppenburg, Benjamin Blaine Nott and Mrs. Clarence Cochrane.

**Salary.** The congregation that The Rev. Mr. Mason came to serve had a membership of thirty-three, and the parish included three counties, as he was the only active Presbyterian minister in that area. Although times were growing better, the church was unable to pay his full salary of \$450 a year without assistance from the Board of Home Missions. In return, The Rev. Mr. Mason also served the Presbyterian Church at Berlin (now LeClaire).

**Circuit Rider.** One of the active members of the LeClaire church was Robert Christie, who had been one of the charter members of the Davenport church. He sold the LeClaire church

the lot on which its first house of worship was built. Under The Rev. Mr. Mason's ministry this church grew so rapidly that in less than two years it required its own minister.

Then The Rev. Mr. Mason was free to devote part of his time to the rural areas too remote for the people to be able to attend the Davenport church often. He began by preaching once a month in the home of a member at Blue Grass, a settlement so young that deer roamed in the forest and a full-grown bear had recently been killed there.

By 1852 there were nine members living in that neighborhood. Withdrawing their membership from the Davenport church, they organized the Blue Grass Presbyterian Church with The Rev. Enoch Mead as their first minister.

The Rev. Mr. Mason next held services in the homes of members living north of town. There the Summit Church was organized, and built its own place of worship in 1858.

**Parsonage.** During these years the Davenport church had doubled its membership several times. It now paid all the pastor's salary and had erected a parsonage for \$2500 on the south side of Fourth Street, just across the alley from the church. With appropriate ceremonies it was first occupied by the Mason family on September 17, 1852. That evening the pastor



Third Street Church, built in 1854, is said to have been the first with a spire in Davenport. Because of its height, it was used to try out the first fire engines.



48	70	72

Pulpit

71	49	47	45

46			1
47			3
60	J M Doherty	G W Murray	5
58	C E Kindred	J M D Burns	7
56	\$150 C. E. Farry	J M Dalzell	9
54		R Christie \$200	11
52	M Dalzell Sr.		13
50	\$125		15
48	J Mc Kinn	W M Harg	17
46		\$175	19
44		175	21
42	\$100	\$150	23
40		\$130	25
38	\$75		27
36		\$125	29
34	\$50		31

2			63
4			61
6	Dr Fountain		59
8	Jas Benwick		57
10	M C Davis	\$150	55
12	\$200 D. T. Newcomb		53
14	Dr Laistie	M D Dawson	51
16		\$125	49
18	S R Miller	A. S. Brewster	47
20	\$175	S. K. Burdick	45
22			43
24	\$150		41
26	\$130		39
28		\$75	37
30	\$125		35
32		\$50	33

### Pews in the Third Street Church

Worshippers entering from the center aisle were separated from those coming from the side aisles by partitions as high as the backs of the pews. The prices of the unsold pews are given.





wrote in his diary: "Oh that the Holy Spirit may rest upon us therein and all who may hereafter occupy it, that the expectation of the church in erecting it may be abundantly realized."

**Bigger Church.** A few months later the little chapel was sold and a brick church, 45 by 70 feet in dimension, was started on the same site. In the meantime worship services were held in LeClaire House. This announcement is found in the *Davenport Gazette* of Thursday, November 10, 1853: "RELIGIOUS NOTICE—The Presbyterian congregation will meet during the winter in the basement of their new church. Services next Sabbath morning at 11 o'clock and at 6½ in the evening."

The edifice was completed and dedicated the following July. Tradition says that the steeple was the first to rear its head in the city of Davenport. In the early pictures of the town it was a conspicuous feature of the landscape. As it was the tallest building in the city, it was sometimes used to try out the new fire engines.

**The Bell.** The bell that hung in this steeple may have been the one from the little chapel; at any rate, it was bought by the women. To raise the money they held a fair at the courthouse which they made festive with flags, evergreen arches and colored lights. The military band played and two cannons boomed their greetings, waking all the babies in the neighborhood and shattering the windows of the courthouse.

Homemade ice cream, a novelty, was to have been served, but mischievous boys broke in and ate it.

In spite of the disappointments, the women cleared \$150 after paying for the band, the cannons, and replacing the broken windows. They bought a bell with a beautiful tone. After it had been used for many years it was sold and placed in the Clinton county courthouse.

**Early Records.** On the fading pages of the church minute book, in the record of the congregational meeting of January, 1858, we read: "Resolved, that persons holding and renting pews, be requested to call on the Treasurer, M. Dalzell, Jr., during the first ten days of each quarter, and pay their pew rents, and if such rent is not paid in ten days, the Treasurer be instructed to collect the sum and add five per cent to the rent, for collection. Resolution adopted." A more pleasant item of the financial report on that date is: "The Trustees would gratefully acknowledge the receipt from the ladies of the church of about \$440."

When The Rev. Mr. Mason had been here nine years, he preached a historical sermon, January 3, 1859, a longhand copy of which has been preserved in the church record book. The pages are yellow and crumbling with age and the writing is growing dim, but the message is still pulsating with the interest and vigor of the writer. In regard to the finances of the church he says: "... erecting the Church edifice we now occupy ... at a cost of \$8450, of which we are sorry to add, near \$2000 remains yet unpaid. The salary of the Pastor was at first \$450, which was increased in due time, first to \$600, and then to \$700, and two years ago to \$1000, (together with the use of the manse),



and always entirely upon the voluntary movement of the people. This, moreover, has always been paid with promptness, according to agreement, together with many incidental tokens of Christian kindness and confidence . . . In these years \$2288 have been contributed to the various causes of Christian benevolences, supported by the Presbyterian Church."

**James M. Dalzell.** The church roll had now increased to 160 even after the rural members had been transferred to their new church homes. The Sabbath School had an enrollment of 150. There was an adult

Bible Class as early as 1855. Since the death of Charles C. Williams, the school had been under the guidance of James M. Dalzell, who continued as superintendent until 1864.

Although he was a very busy man, Mr. Dalzell took time for private devotions and for family worship every morning. He carried his religion into his work, be it selling lumber or serving as secretary of the local Board of Trade. He was a ruling elder in the church, contributing much to its spiritual and financial welfare.

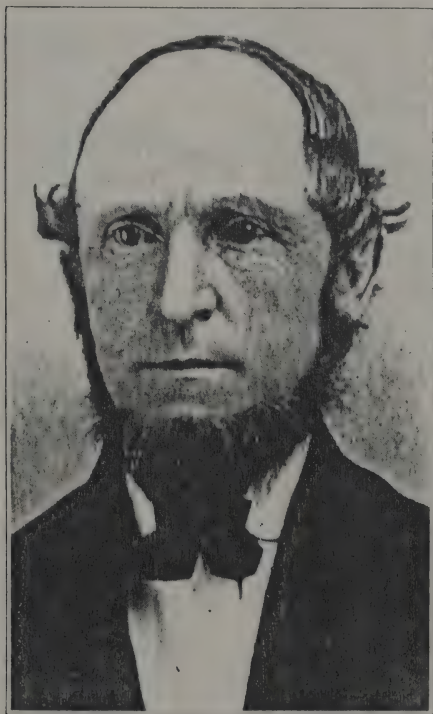
**Pastor Resigns.** When a feeling of prosperity and well-being had been established in the church, a congregational meeting was called, May 7, 1859, to consider the resignation of the pastor.

"Resigned!" gasped the members, as the news was passed around the parish. "Resigned just when the church was going well!"

That was the reason The Rev. Mr. Mason felt he was needed more in some of the struggling young churches. He was a missionary and the Davenport church was no longer a mission station.

As The Rev. Mr. Mason's work was in the adjoining neighborhoods where the churches were still under the care of the Board of Home Missions, his family continued to live in town. When he retired from active ministerial work, he again became a familiar figure in Davenport, being known then among Presbyterians as Father Mason.

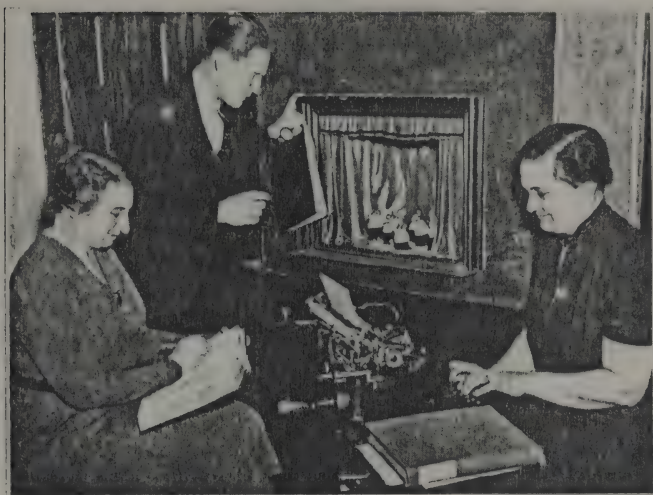
**Samuel M. Anderson.** With the opening of the new year, 1860, The Rev. Samuel McCullough Anderson



James M. Dalzell, Superintendent of the Sabbath School, 1852-64, in the church at Third street.







Working on the script of the Centennial Pageant, "Behind These Years", left to right: Miss Alice Vogt, historical editor; Oscar L. Gustafson and Mrs. Helen Gustafson, authors and directors.

entered quietly into his work as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. He was a dignified young widower. Continuing his studies, he received his Doctor of Divinity degree during his ministry here.

**Civil War.** It was an exciting time. The notable John Brown had been executed and escaped slaves were passing through Davenport on their way to freedom in Canada. The events that led to the War of the Rebellion and the part that Iowa played in it, are recorded on the pages of American History. The resourcefulness of the Davenport women in outfitting the first Iowa troop when the government was unable to supply uniforms for them is familiar to all true Hawkeyes.

**Sewing Society.** Although the homemade uniforms caused amusement among the troops in standard ones, the women continued to sew for the shivering soldiers and their destitute families. Each denomination

fed and clothed the needy among its own members and helped to care for strangers.

While the Presbyterian women had for years raised money for the church, there had been no permanent women's organization among them until they formed the Ladies' Sewing Society in 1862, with Mrs. E. B. Buchanan as president. Besides their sewing they also knitted, buying the wool in the fleece, which had to be washed, carded, spun into yarn and dyed before it could be knitted into stockings and mittens.

**Music.** All the while the other work of the church was going on. The old melodeon was now moved to the basement and a new reed organ graced the sanctuary. Mr. J. C. Wallace, the curly-haired young proprietor of the music store, was the organist and leader of the volunteer choir. His salary was \$100 a year, but like that of the sexton, Mr. John M. Middleton, it was often in arrears until the



women gave a lawn festival to raise the money.

As it was, the policy of the church to obtain the best musical talent available, some of the choir members were not communicants. After much discussion and hesitation, they were given the privilege of voting in congregational meetings because of their musical contribution.

**Debts Paid.** The stoves that had, for years, toasted some of the worshippers while others shivered, were now worn out and were replaced by a furnace in 1861. The church was lighted by gas, the bill for which was about \$40 a year.

As the expenses of the church increased, there were generous gifts with which to meet them, for the prices of agricultural and mill products were good. A considerable sum was also realized from the sale of the parsonage, which was not needed because the minister had no family. At last the entire church debt was wiped out.

**New Church.** Then it was not long until the congregation had again outgrown its building, for which Woebler Brothers, carriage manufacturers, were offering \$6000. At the same time the beautiful new \$20,000 St. Luke's Episcopal edifice (now the Davenport Public Museum) was in the hands of creditors who offered it to the Presbyterians for \$6000.

To us the problem seems very simple. But to the people who had worshipped for years in the old church it seemed a sacrilege to convert it into a factory. Besides, the cost of getting St. Luke's ready for use would not be small. Even then it was at the

outskirts of the city and people did not want to go so far to church.

But the most serious objection was that raised by such devout men as James M. Dalzell and David McKown. They believed that so splendid a sanctuary would hinder rather than help the spiritual growth of the worshippers.

For a few weeks this issue claimed the interest of the people of Davenport. Finally, the proposed transfer of property was made, April 26, 1864.

There was tender sorrow at leaving the old Third Street church, in which the last service was held May 1. Happiness in the beautiful new sanctuary was marred by the withdrawal from membership of several families who could not endorse the increasingly liberal policy of the First Presbyterian Church.

However, the remaining members went to work with a will. The middle of June the women held a two-day strawberry festival at Metropolitan Hall, one feature of the entertainment being "Barnum's Baby Show." They netted over \$650 to be used on the new edifice which was now known as the Seventh Street Church.

**Minister Marries.** About the same time The Rev. Dr. Anderson was married to a young widow of the parish, Mrs. Julia Fountain, daughter of J. M. D. Burrows. She was leader of the Ladies' Sewing Society for several years. So highly was she esteemed by the women that they later dedicated their self-denial fund to her memory.

Soon after the Seventh Street Church was ready for use, the manse





The ~~Deeds~~ ~~and~~ ~~conveyances~~ ~~made~~ entered into, this 9<sup>th</sup> day of January A.D. 1865 by and between The First Presbyterian Old School Church of Laverport, party of the first part, and Andrew J. Preston of Laverport Iowa, party of the second part, Witnesseth, That the said party of the first part in consideration of the sum of one hundred and seventy five (\$175.00) Dollars paid by the said party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, does by these presents, remise release and forever quit-claim, unto the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns, the Pew in the First Presbyterian Old School Church of Laverport known and designated on the plat of said church as number Sixty six (66), upon the condition that the said party of the second part shall pay to the Treasurer of said church a Tax of ten (10) per cent per annum upon the amount of the above specified consideration, which tax shall be paid semi-annually in advance and which tax may at any time after the expiration of the first year, be increased if necessary, but shall never exceed twenty (20) per cent upon the amount of said consideration. So Done & So Well the above mentioned Pew together with all the rights, immunities, privileges and appurtenances to the same, belonging, unto the said party of the second part, and to his heirs and assigns forever. Provided however that should the said second party or his assigns, fail in paying the tax assessed upon the Pew, for the period of one

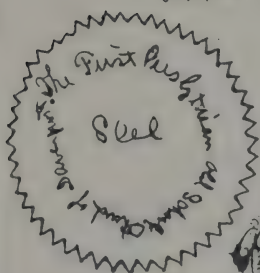


See, they shall be notified thereof and thirty (30) days thereafter, the See shall be offered for sale, and the amount resulting from such sale, after deducting the rent due, with fifty per cent added, shall be paid to the owner of said See.

In witness whereof the said party of the first part, executes this conveyance by causing its Trustees to sign the same, and to affix its corporate seal the day and year first above written

Chas. E. Putnam  
 Andrew J. Preston  
 James S. Altman

Trustees of the First  
 Presbyterian Ch. School  
 Church of Danversport



State of Iowa, Scott County, Iowa.

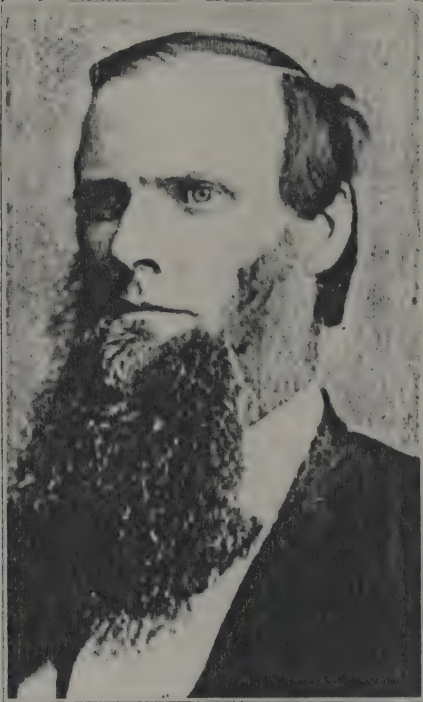
Be it remembered that on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of January A.D. 1865 before the undersigned a Notary Public in and for said County, personally appeared Andrew J. Preston, Charles E. Putnam & James S. Altman Trustees of the First Presbyterian Ch. School Church of Danversport, to me personally known to be the identical persons whose names are affixed to the foregoing seal, and acknowledged the instrument to be their voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.

Witness my hand and Notarial Seal the day & year last above written

John A. Rogers,  
 Notary Public







The Rev. S. M. Anderson, D.D., 1860-69, was an able minister and a good business man.

Seventh Street Church, purchased in 1864, was at the outskirts of the city, and is now the Dav-enport Public Mu-seum.

at 224 East Twelfth Street was erected. It was the home of suc-cessive pastors for nearly half a cen-tury.

**Sunday School.** The Sabbath School was growing and introducing new ideas. The calendar given in the city directory of 1867 shows the hour of meeting as nine o'clock in the sum-mer and half an hour later in winter. The superintendent was S. J. Sanger, with J. S. Altman, assistant; J. T. Walker, teacher of the Adult Bible Class; Mrs. R. Hake, teacher of the 'infant school'; and W. H. Farrand, librarian.

In its new building on the hillside, the church soon had as many mem-bers as had been on its roll at the old location. It had started up the hill.





## WOMEN AT WORK

### Chapter III

The War of the Rebellion was over but the women kept on working. In a crisis they had worked together



to relieve suffering humanity, and having had a taste of organization and a widening outlook on church work, they continued their Ladies' Sewing Society. Although hostilities had ceased, the families of many soldiers were still destitute for several years.

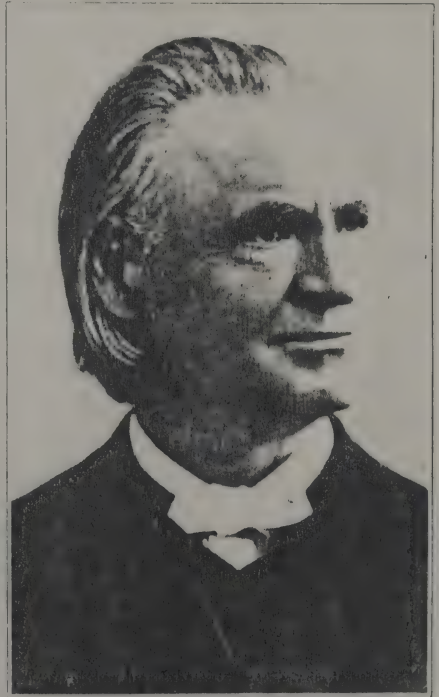
The Presbyterian women assisted The Rev. Dr. Anderson and the elders in administering "charity" in the form of food, fuel and clothing, most of the garments being made in the Sewing Society. They also made clothing for the Davenport Soldiers' Relief Society which was non-sectarian.

Some of the members were especially active in the care of soldiers' orphans. Mrs. Daniel T. Newcomb was a director of the State Soldiers' Orphan Society and was influential in establishing a home for the children in the now unused barracks of Camp Kinsman (present site of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home).

Interesting is that page of Davenport history which tells how the women of the city collected furniture, bedding and dishes to make the bleak buildings habitable, and how they welcomed a hundred and fifty orphans arriving on the steamboat from Keokuk.

The first superintendent of the Orphans' Home was Dr. Milton B. Cochrane, who was soon made an elder in the Presbyterian Church. The Ladies' Sewing Society did a great deal of sewing for the orphans and helped to give them a happy Christmas.

For many years the church contributed to the Freedmen's Bureau of the Presbyterian Church of the



The Rev. J. B. Stewart, 1870-72, preacher of unusual ability, claimed he left the seminary with only one sermon which he preached in every country town between Pittsburgh and Cincinnati.







Newcomb Memorial Chapel, built in 1871 for a Sunday School that had met above a saloon and then in a grove.

U. S. A., but there was no work established by this church among the Negroes of Davenport.

**John B. Stewart.** Dr. Samuel M. Anderson served as pastor for ten years, leaving December 31, 1869, to accept a pastorate in Hamilton, Ohio. His successor, The Rev. John B. Stewart, arrived on June 28, 1870. As he was a man of unusual ability as a speaker, the church attendance was always good and the membership increased to 240.

**Newcomb Memorial.** With the orphans properly provided for, Mrs. Newcomb became interested in the Y. M. C. A. Mission Sunday School in Hamburg (Northwest Davenport), which was meeting over a saloon in wintertime and in Judge Mitchell's grove in summer, because there was no better place available. Purchasing a lot, she erected on it the Newcomb Memorial Chapel, (in memory of her late husband, Daniel T. Newcomb), which was dedicated to the use of this Sunday School on December 19, 1871. At her request the session of

the First Church appointed Seth P. Bryant to assist her in the management of the school. In 1882, she deeded the property to the First Church in trust for the Sunday School which remained a mission for several decades.

After serving the Davenport church for two years, The Rev. Mr. Stewart accepted the pastorate of the Calvary Church of Milwaukee, and later served the Central Presbyterian Church of Des Moines, being Moderator of the Synod of Iowa in 1884.

**Charles D. Nott.** The next pastor, The Rev. Charles DeKay Nott, D. D., entered upon his work on the second Sabbath in January, 1873.



The Rev. Charles D. Nott, D.D., 1873-80, was a grandson of Dr. Eliphalet Nott, President of Union College.



A few years earlier, in his parish in Kansas City, Missouri, Michael Hummer, the first minister of this church, had been a member.

On the day of Dr. Nott's installation, April 6, it was raining, but the sanctuary was filled. The sermon was delivered by The Rev. Dr. Nicolls of St. Louis, with the dedicatory prayer offered by The Rev. J. D. Mason. The hymn books used were the new "Songs of the Sanctuary," containing both words and music. The organist was Mr. J. C. Wallace, who also directed the choir, two members of which were probably Mrs. Joanna G. Burrows and J. S. Altman.

**Pipe Organ.** The reed organ was still used on this occasion, but in a few weeks it was relegated to the Sunday School room and replaced in the sanctuary by the pipe organ purchased from the Trinity Episcopal Church. Like others of its day, this organ was pumped by hand. Many times the elders had difficulty in finding a dependable organ boy.

In a recent letter, William H. Cochrane, son of Dr. M. B. Cochrane, says: "Oh yes, I pumped the organ—have vivid recollections of the speed with which the indicator shot up during the fortissimo passages, and how my arms ached—and my bellows near the bursting point. Have had a leaning towards soft pedaling ever since."

Sometimes, when the organist stepped on the pedal, there was no response from the blower because he was asleep or visiting with some friend in a nearby carriage. One Sun-

day a devout lady, mother of the boy on duty, glanced up; near the ceiling was her son peering out between the pipes.

**Renwick Memorial.** One of the early business women of the city was Miss Rebecca Renwick, sister to James Renwick. Operating a millinery shop, she accumulated a modest estate. At her death, in May, 1868, she bequeathed to the First Presbyterian Church, property that yielded the Renwick Memorial Fund of \$4000, the interest from which was to be used for Sunday School and mission work. By 1874 the accrued income was a thousand dollars, which was used to cover half the cost of erecting the Renwick Memorial Chapel at the corner of College Avenue and Fulton Street in East Davenport. The grounds included two lots, one of which had been donated to the First Church by A. C. Fulton.

The chapel was dedicated on Sunday afternoon, January 3, 1875. Under the charge of The Rev. J. D. Mason as missionary, a Sunday School was organized a short time afterwards. The work flourished so that on February 6, 1876, the congregation of thirty members was organized into the College Avenue Presbyterian Church (now Mt. Ida), with The Rev. Mr. Mason as the first minister.

**Missionary Society.** The Synod of South Iowa met in this church in 1879. In connection with it the women held a meeting at which they organized the Synodical Women's Missionary Society, Mrs. M. B. Cochrane helping to draw up the constitution. The discussions crystallized in





this parish an interest in missions. At once the envelope system was introduced to raise the benevolent fund.

This was the summer of the terrible grasshopper invasion in Kansas, with its consequent famine and suffering, vivid accounts of which were given in the newspapers. One day Mrs. C. Stewart Ells called on Mrs. Lizzie Howard (later Mrs. Carpenter) to work out a practical plan for the relief of "Bleeding Kansas." They got down on their knees and prayed about it. Then it was only a few days until the local Women's Missionary Society was organized, with Mrs. J. M. D. Burrows as president; and immediately a box was sent to Kansas.

The society was an innovation upon which many people looked askance. The movement owed its success to the sound judgment of the women.

Mrs. Thomas W. McClelland, Mrs. M. B. Cochrane and Mrs. C. D. Nott were appointed by the church session to administer the poor relief in the parish. Mrs. Ells gave a hundred dollars to start the self-denial fund, which provided a scholarship for one of the schools in the Gaboon mission in Africa.

**Young People.** The girls caught the enthusiasm of the women, and within a year, formed a junior society known as the Busy Bees, sending their first box to the drought area of Nebraska. Like their mothers, they made new garments and renovated old ones for use in mission relief work. They also made cash contributions to national and foreign mission causes.

One of the young ladies, Miss Abbie Cochrane, was a teacher in the North Davenport grammar school.



Only threescore and ten years ago many sincere people looked askance upon the work of women in Missionary Societies. Now, Miss Alfreda Zarges (seated left) is Director of Religious Education and plans with committees of girls for more effective work in their departments of the Church School. (Seated right) Florence Spangle, (standing left) Eloise Gaghagen, and (standing right) Dorothy Risse.



One day an Indian in paint and feathers looked in at the schoolroom window and shook his tomahawk at the children, enjoying the consternation he was causing.

**To Mexico.** Miss Cochrane was appointed as an educational missionary to Mexico in 1879, but being only twenty-three years old, she was accompanied by her father on her first trip into that land infested with bandits and Indians. Her support came from the Iowa Synodical Society, Mrs. D. T. Newcomb contributing a large portion of her salary.

The next summer Miss Abbie was joined on the mission field by her sister Lillie (Miss Mary Elizabeth Cochrane), who was supported by the Des Moines Presbyterian Society. After five years of teaching there, Abbie resigned, to be married to William D. Nicholson, a civil engineer for the Mexican National Railway. Lillie, however, continued in this schoolwork until 1892, when she resigned, to be married to Marion E. Beall, a missionary in Mexico City.

Whenever either of these ladies visited Davenport, the Women's Missionary Society was fired with new zeal for the cause of missions.

**Nicholas M. Clute.** The vacancy was filled by The Rev. Nicholas Marcellus Clute, D. D., at the end of May, the following year. He was born of Dutch parents in the Mohawk Valley and lived most of his life in the Empire state, coming to Charles City, Iowa three years prior to his call to Davenport.



The Rev. Nicholas M. Clute, D.D.,  
Pastor from 1881 to 1885.

The Ladies' Social Sewing Society was still sewing and knitting, but took time for many kinds of festivals, one of which was a reception for Dr. and Mrs. Clute at the manse. The women were now raising money to recarpet and recushion the sanctuary.

**Benevolence.** So successful were the women in raising money that they were asked to raise the entire Benevolence Fund for the church. For several years Miss Elizabeth Andreas served as treasurer of the fund, most of which went to the boards of the General Assembly. Contributions were given to the German Theologi-





cal Seminary (now Dubuque University) and Parsons College, for the partial support of students in training for the ministry.

**Chinese Mission.** Miss Lida Adams came to realize the number of Chinese laundrymen in the city. She promoted for them English classes taught by the young people whose homes were opened to them showing American life at its best. This work, begun in 1882 with Miss Julia McAlister as superintendent, was continued more than fifteen years, until there were no longer many Chinese in town.

**Pansy Band.** The children's missionary circle known as the Pansy Band was started at the same time by Mrs. Joanna Burrows. The chil-

dren learned of peoples in foreign lands and made simple articles for sale at bazaars to raise missionary money. Miss Lucy Johnston remembers sitting on the window ledge in the basement of the Seventh Street Church and using bright-colored yarn on sewing cards. The boys sometimes missed a Saturday afternoon ball game because of the meetings. The first year, the Pansy Band sent \$40 to the Mexico Mission, and later helped to buy an organ for use in the Indian territory.

**Social Service.** Some of the young people expressed their missionary interest by teaching in the Newcomb Memorial Sunday School, which was supervised by such men as Elders J. B. Young, M. B. Cochrane, Richard



The Church School Shop now provides a wide variety of activity for boys, under the direction of Mr. Gustafson (right), with the assistance of Leslie Wright, Scoutmaster (left), and Walter Parker (center).



## WOMEN AT WORK

D. Simpson, J. R. Bowman, and John N. Greer.

Having outgrown its name, the Ladies' Sewing Society became the Ladies' Social Society of Church Workers, and for many years was called by the first part of the name. Many of their activities had a social service function.

As early as 1876 the women were asked by the session to welcome strangers at the church and visit them in their homes. The Ladies' Social Society furnished printed cards which the young men placed in the hotel rooms each week-end inviting the travellers to worship at the First Presbyterian Church.

Shortly after the beginning of Dr. Clute's ministry here, Mrs. Clute passed to her reward. The pastor later married Mrs. Mary Whitney, matron of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home. During the four years he served the church, he recorded with trembling hands the proceedings of the session, resigning because of failing health. He returned to Charles City and served as supply minister to small churches for several years.

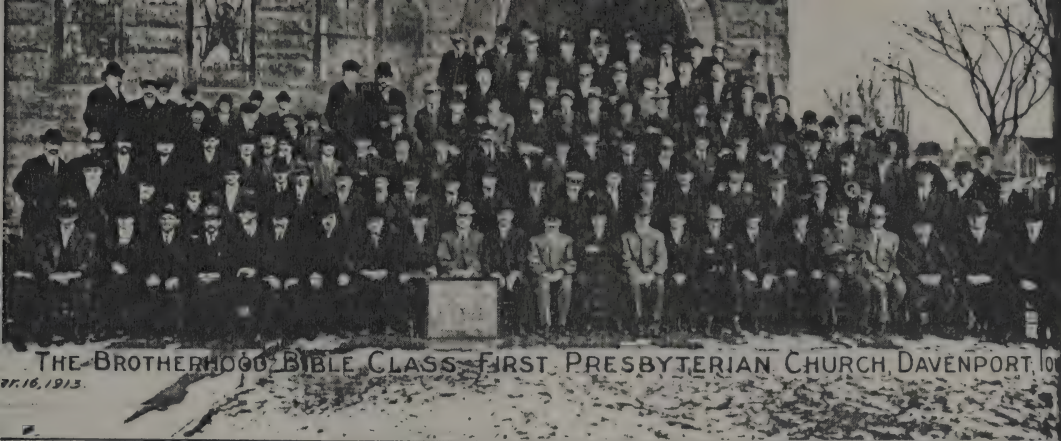
This was the era of woman's emancipation from the narrow limits of the fireside. The Missionary Society was appropriately called by Miss Lillie Cochrane "a college of Liberal Arts to the women of the church."



Left: Mrs. Alma Cale Lundberg, Church Secretary for 13 years. Right: Mrs. Ida B. Hutchens, Treasurer since 1931.







THE BROTHERHOOD BIBLE CLASS, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, DAVENPORT, IOWA, 1916.

Right: Fred Wyman, member of the Board of Trustees for three decades and generous supporter of the church.



Above: The Brotherhood Class is a charter member of the National Brotherhood Association.

The Church School staff of officers and teachers about 1916.

Back row: Grace Frank, Mrs. John Hand, Mrs. Schultz, Mrs. Naumann, A. I. Naumann, Mr. Malone, Kate Anthony, J. A. Utts, J. A. Rohde, Mr. Beyer, . . . . .

Fourth row: . . . . . (half face), Oliver Murray (behind), Mrs. Brownlee, Mary Henry, Jean Robeson, Eloise Coe, Dorothy Drier, Lois Wells, Sadie Terry, Mrs. J. A. Rohde, . . . . . E. Vera Stuehmer, . . . . . (behind), Jessie Easson, George S. Johnson.

Third row: Cable Von Maur, W. R. Johnson, Mrs. L. M. Coffman, Pearl Shaw, Cora Johnson.

Second row: Elmer Thomas, L. J. Yaggy, Mrs. F. A. Waugh, Mrs. Wilcox, Mrs. Young, J. B. Young, H. W. Gilbert, Mrs. Heine, Mrs. Maude Wettstein, Kathryn Farber, Mrs. J. I. Lunch, Birdie McDowell.

Front row: . . . . . J. I. Lynch, Margaret Cram (behind), Helen Frank, John Ogg, C. J. Von Maur, Dr. L. M. Coffman, Harry Whaley, Alden Coffman, Joseph Jackson.







# EXPANDING HORIZONS

## Chapter IV

"Who will our next pastor be?"

This question was asked many times during the discouraging year that followed. At



last there was an answer: The Rev. Joseph Brewster Little, D. D., from Adrian, Michigan, who came April 22, 1886. An hour after he landed, he was in the Maundy Thursday prayer meeting, coming close to the hearts of his people.

Easter Sunday was bright and beautiful and the sanctuary was decked with flowers. Resurrection music was provided by the Misses Annable and Day, and the Messrs. Meyer and Frizell. The services refreshed the hopes of the worshipers, the beginning of revitalized activity in the church.

**Youth.** The work of the young people took on new life with the organization of a Christian Endeavor Society affiliated with the national program. Under sympathetic adult leaders, the meetings were conducted entirely by the youth. The society grew rapidly and soon won the favor of those who had at first looked askance upon the innovation.

At the same time the girls of the Young People's Missionary Society kept on raising money and filling mission boxes, among the leaders being Kathryn Farber, Lida Middleton and Helen Cattell. In addition to the

work in the Newcomb Sunday School, where the Misses Margaret LaVenture and Laura Harlow were active, the young men and women helped to conduct a Christian Endeavor Society at the chapel and furnished music at the People's City Mission.

**Women and Missions.** One spring day the trains brought scores of ladies to Davenport to attend the 1887 meeting of the Presbyterian Women's Board of Missions of the Northwest. The expanding horizon of the Presbyterian Church is shown by the great number of lands discussed on the program, a copy of which has been preserved by Mrs. Thomas Murray. The meetings gave added impetus to the local enthusiasm for the cause of world-wide evangelization.

This was an age of revival meetings. From year to year the First Presbyterian Church cooperated in such evangelistic campaigns, receiving many new members into her fellowship. Yet the church roll remained about three hundred because of the great number leaving town or removed by death.

**Going Home.** Some of the men and women who had served the Lord long and faithfully in the First Church, were now declining in years and were giving over their responsibilities to a younger generation. Their benign presence was a benediction to the congregation, but within the space of a few years several of the early leaders were called home:







The Manse, 224 East Twelfth street, built in 1865 and used until 1907, was the scene of many weddings.

The Rev. Enoch Mead and The Rev. J. D. Mason, both pioneer ministers; Elders J. M. D. Burrows, Dr. Charles C. Parry, Dr. J. J. Thompson, Edward Roberts and Edward Russell; Trustees Charles E. Putnam, James Renwick and William Renwick; Mrs. D. T. (Patience V.) Newcomb, and Mrs. Sarah McManus, grandmother to Mrs. Gus Ficke.

The church also mourned the passing of the minister's wife, Mrs. Mary A. Little, who had suffered poor health since her arrival, but had given her declining strength to the parish. She left a son, George B. Little, now a dentist in Palo Alto, California; and a daughter Mary (Mamie), who was later married to the renowned lecturer, Edward Howard Griggs. So much had Mrs. Little endeared herself to the women that they furnished, in her memory, a classroom in the Mary Holmes Seminary for colored girls in West Point, Mississippi.

**Boys' Band.** The children of the Pansy Band were now growing up. The boys had served as ushers at the Women's Missionary convention and were beginning to take part in the

Christian Endeavor meetings. Before long the entire band was absorbed by that society. Likewise, the Boys' Sunday School Class, taught first by Mrs. Emma Regnier and then by Professor J. W. McBride, now became the Young Men's Bible Class with Mr. F. S. Shepard as leader.

Then the younger set formed the Boy's Band, meeting once a month with Miss Lida Middleton as leader. These boys joined in with the girls to start the Junior Christian Endeavor in October, 1894, of which Miss Grace Regnier was superintendent for several years.

**Minister Marries.** It was a happy occasion when The Rev. Dr. Little was married to Miss Julia McAlister. The Ladies' Social Society arranged an elaborate reception for them in the church parlors, presenting them with a nice gift.

In her quiet way, Miss McAlister had been active in all the Women's work and in the Sunday School. She had been superintendent of the Chinese Mission and the Pansy Band. Already beloved by the congregation, she was welcomed as the pastor's new wife.

**For Others.** Now the work of the Chinese Mission was under the supervision of Miss Lida P. Middleton. Besides the Sunday School at Newcomb Memorial Chapel, which was in charge of George W. Cable, the young people, with James S. Conner as superintendent, were conducting Mission Sunday School at the church on Sunday afternoons in the hope of reaching the young people who worked so late on Saturday evenings



that they were not up for the regular school at nine-thirty.

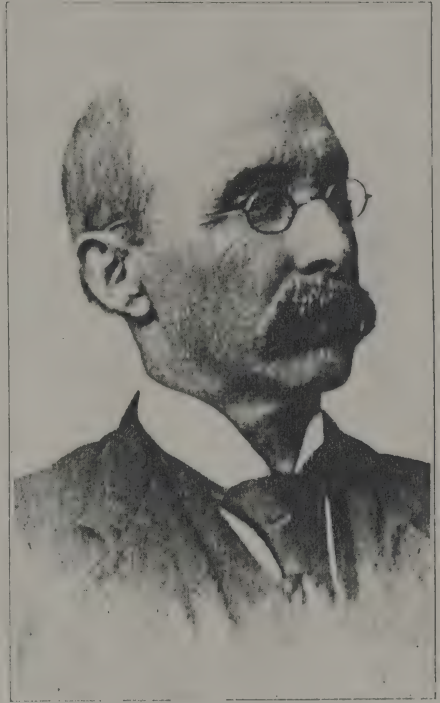
One of the young women, Miss Josephine Suiter, was teaching in the village school at Walcott. With some support from the Davenport church, she fitted up an abandoned school-house and started in it a little Sunday School, which is still serving the community.

**Music.** When The Rev. Dr. Little had been here nearly ten years, his New Year sermon was a historical one. In it he said: "For years we have had by far the best choir this city has ever known. It was so good it came near making the whole congregation good singers. It stimulated other choirs to excellence. And it leaves a faultless echo in the present arrangement."

That arrangement was a precentor, Mr. C. R. McCandless, who led the congregational singing and occasionally sang a solo. However, a quartet choir was soon engaged again. The organist was Professor S. T. Bowlby of Rock Island.

At one time the choir had a vacancy which George Little was invited to fill. He was flattered and put his youthful soul into his singing for twenty-eight weeks. When he was about to leave for the university that fall, the treasurer gave him a check for his services. Coming as a surprise, it was the first money he had ever received for his singing. It was used for his first tailormade suit which he was to wear at the University of Michigan.

The widening vision of the First Church was reflected in the frequency with which out-of-town choirs provided musical programs, one of them



The Rev. Joseph B. Little, D.D., 1886-96, was from an Indiana family famous for its number of Presbyterian ministers.

being the Princeton College Glee Club, which sang during the Christmas vacation of 1894. Miss Renwick arranged for a phonographic concert at one of the Ladies' Social Society meetings, and another time, a stereoptical lecture on Egypt.

**Changes.** The First Presbyterian Church had now been worshipping at Seventh and Brady Streets for thirty years, in which time the residential section of the city had moved up the hill, placing the center of the parish far north of the Seventh Street Church. Several churches were already located on the hill where some





of the Presbyterians were attending for convenience.

**New Site.** "Let us move to the hilltop," said the women, who soon raised five hundred dollars toward furnishing a new church. They sent a committee to confer with the trustees regarding the selection of a location.

Dr. Little was happy with the progress of the church and also with its outlook, but he felt that another man should carry out the building plan. Resigning at the close of his tenth year, he accepted a call to Shenandoah, Iowa.

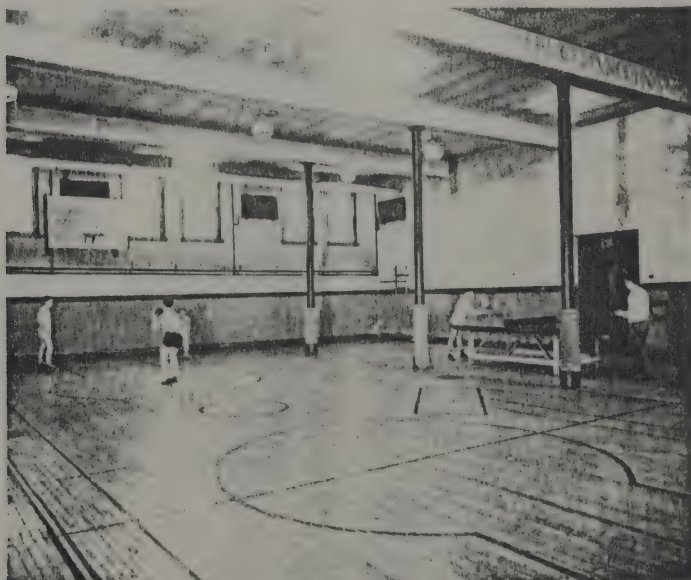
Ere his successor arrived, the ground for the new church had been purchased, the Ladies' Social Society advancing their \$500 to make a payment on it. The committee that made the selection were men and women

of vision: Messrs. Anthony Burdick, A. F. Cutter, George P. McClelland, Henry Spink and J. S. Wylie; and Mesdames R. E. Lindsay and W. D. Middleton. The site they chose was at Kirkwood Boulevard and Iowa Street.

Although the trustees began at once to solicit subscriptions for the new edifice, over three years elapsed before it was ready for occupation. In the meantime the congregation continued to worship at the Seventh Street church.

**John B. Donaldson.** The Rev. John B. Donaldson, D. D., began his ministry here on November 8, 1896. He and his family were welcomed at a reception in the home of Dr. and Mrs. W. D. Middleton.

**Records.** Dr. Donaldson, a scholar especially interested in history, en-



Gymnasium in the Bible School Building.



## EXPANDING HORIZONS

couraged the church to provide adequate records of the events of his pastorate. The minute books of the session and the board of trustees were fully posted and preserved. Many intimate details of the church and its members were published as news in the local church periodical, *The Presbyterian*, a bound volume of which is found in the pastor's study. Dr. Donaldson was editor, with Ralph W. Cram as associate.

Not satisfied with the current events of the church, Dr. Donaldson compiled a great deal of authentic information regarding the early history of the organization and its ministers. A committee collected portraits of all the former pastors, making up the hall of fame in the corridor opposite the pastor's study, copies of which are used in the present historical volume.

**Service.** In those last years at the old location, special effort was made to render lasting service in the down-

town section. The result was an immediate increase in the Sunday School and church attendance so that the building was filled to capacity every Sunday. Also the shut-ins were visited by the women of the new Home Department, and the infants were served by the Cradle Roll.

The First Church was still furnishing teachers for the Newcomb Memorial Sunday School and now paying the salary of The Rev. John McArthur, who was employed part time to minister to the little congregation. This mission was meeting the running expenses of its work.

Under the leadership of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Bowman, the young people of the home church were conducting a new Sunday School on Jersey Ridge Road. They held occasional services in several other rural neighborhoods but none developed into established schools.

The gifts of the church to benevolences were increasing, and the Wo-

Laurance Smith, assistant organist, accompanying a quartet from the Eventide Choir, 1939, (front, left to right): Mary Schmidt, Phyllis Jones, Robert McIntosh, William Weck.







	\$20.	\$20.	
72			1
	\$30.	\$30.	
73	MRS. DR. FIVERS.	J. D. CUSTER.	3
	\$40.	\$40.	
74		I. L. DAVENPORT.	5
	\$50.	\$60.	
75	THOMAS CARSON.	DR. MIDDLETON.	7
	\$30.	\$70.	
76	MRS. REEDER.	MRS. C. L. PUTNAM.	9
	\$20.	DR. MIDDLETON.	
77	JAMES D. MAGON.	C. J. VAN MAUR.	11
	\$30.	\$20.	
78	T. W. MCLELLAN.	MRS. HANCOCK.	13
	\$50.	MRS. F. H. HARRIS.	
79	WM. LAVENTURE.	D. N. RICHARDSON.	15
	\$35.	\$80.	
80	L. C. M'LOUTH.	G. W. KABLE.	17
	\$50.	\$60.	
81	A. F. CUTTER.	DR. C. R. BAKER.	19
	\$90.	E. H. RYAN.	
82	J. B. YOUNG.	GEO. P. MCLELLAN.	21
	\$50.	R. J. SCOTT.	
83	MRS. E. ROBERTS.	J. S. WYLIE.	23
	\$40.	\$35.	
84	MRS. R. W. BROWN.	A. P. DUE.	25
	\$40.	H. W. GILBERT.	
85	A. F. CAGLE.	F. STEEDINS.	27
	\$35.	MRS. F. M. MAASE.	
86	MRS. L. J. WARRICK.	J. MIDDLETON.	29
	\$30.	THOMAS M'FARLAY.	
87	MRS. MARKEE.	MRS. E. CHOSFORD.	31
	\$25.	MRS. H. M. FORT.	
88	AUG. REIMERS.	MRS. GLADHILL.	33
	\$25.	MRS. MARTINELLE.	
89	J. DUCKWALTER.	GEO. HAINES.	35
	\$25.		
	\$20.	\$20.	
2		F. P. SACCHETT.	60
	\$30.	ROBERT DON.	
4			78
	\$40.	\$40.	
6	J. J. HUMPHREY.		76
	\$40.	\$50.	
8	J. R. BOWMAN.	MRS. ANDREW MYTH.	74
	\$70.	\$55.	
10	F. S. SHEPARD.	J. S. CONNER.	72
	\$60.	G. R. CLARK.	
12	D. T. NEWCOMB.		70
	\$50.	\$55.	
14	JAMES REINWICK.	MRS. S. N. ROBERTS.	68
	\$60.		
16	J. B. LITTLE.	HENRY SPINK.	66
	\$80.	\$55.	
18	W. H. WILSON.	C. A. DALZELL.	64
	\$80.	W. D. MARSHALL.	
20	MRS. W. H. RENWICK.	J. W. M'BRIDE.	62
	\$70.	MISSES FARRER.	
22	A. BURDICK.	W. A. BLAIR.	60
	\$65.	RALPH LINDSAY.	
24	S. P. BRYANT.	BENJ. BARR.	58
	\$55.	\$40.	
26	MRS. FAY WHITE.	MRS. H. T. DENISON.	56
	\$50.	DR. F. R. CAMPBELL.	
28	F. D. HERRING.	JOHN HUME.	54
	\$43.	MRS. GUTHRIE.	
30	MRS. J. J. FORD.	SAMUEL THOMAS.	52
	\$55.	J. H. ALEXANDER.	
32	MRS. E. GOULD.	B. F. STILES.	50
	\$30.	\$60.	
34	E. F. LONG.	CHARLES MURRAY.	48
	\$60.	\$25.	
36	MRS. CAMPBELL.		46

Family pews in the Seventh Street Church in 1895.



men's Missionary Society, which had in 1896 ranked fifteenth in the Synod in contributions to state projects, had already come up to first place. At the same time, Parsons College enjoyed a large gift from Mr. G. W. Cable, and scholarship endowments amounting to \$4000 from Mrs. D. T. Newcomb's estate, and \$1000 from Mrs. N. M. Clute. The People's Union Mission in the "tenderloin" district received donations for the erection of a new hall.

Thus, while the First Presbyterian Church was raising funds for building and furnishing its own magnificent edifice which was to cost \$100,000, she was promoting an unusually large number of altruistic enterprises, and her fellowship came up to 400 members.

**Boys.** At a memorable communion service, October 9, 1898, five boys from Mr. Charles J. Von Maur's Sunday School class were received into the church; Norman M. Baker, Albert R. Bawden, Paul Blair, Wilbur D. Cloud and Harold Alden Dalzell. They were then active in the boys' Club and in the Junior Christian Endeavor. They cherish fond memories of the annual class dinners given by Mr. and Mrs. Von Maur in their home. Nor have they forgotten being sent out of class because they were annoying the girls in Mrs. Stile's class across the balcony.

Out of this class came one of the first young men from the church to enter the Christian ministry, The Rev. Harold A. Dalzell, D. D., now Associate Pastor of the Shadyside Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was not related to the pioneer family by that name.

**Wheels.** Some of the young people who had traveled and others who liked to hear about life in foreign lands formed the Palmers' Club, which met in the W. D. Middleton home for music and travel talks. Popular as this club was, a few who wanted to travel under their own had a Bicycle Club which helped build cycle paths along the highway as far as Pleasant Valley.

One day when some of the young men were out on their wheels, the pastor hurried by on foot to visit in the parish.

"Dr. Donaldson ought to have a bicycle!" exclaimed George Middleton.

"A minister ride a bicycle? He looks better on a horse," said Hiram Wylie.

"Of course, he borrows father's horse whenever he wants to make calls in the country. But he would use a wheel here in town," continued George.

"Let's get him one," the young men said.

On Easter morning a fine "rubber-tired steed" was found on the front porch of the manse. As was to be expected, the pastor was sometimes chased down the street by a frenzied dog, and once he was bitten on the shin. But no "coach and four" was ever more appreciated than this gift from youthful friends.

**Fire.** During the last year, the old church home narrowly escaped destruction. Once the tower was struck by lightning. Another time, when the temperature was below zero, during the morning sermon the ushers noticed





smoke coming up the stairway. Leaving their posts, Hiram Wylie and George Middleton fell to work and extinguished a fire in the basement without disturbing the services.

**Memory Meeting.** The last communion in the old church was the last of the century. It was the first occasion on which the individual communion glasses were used, a gift to the church by Mr. Benjamin Barr. The ewer and chalices of the old set were given to the Second Presbyterian Church (now Mt. Ida Church).

The eve of Thanksgiving, November 29, 1899, a "memory meeting" was held in the old primary classroom, representatives of the various organizations of the church giving historical accounts of their work.

The Seventh Street Church had been sold to Mrs. Mary L. D. Put-

nam, whose late husband, Charles E. Putnam, had been president of the board of trustees arranging for the purchase of the building thirty-five years before. It was to be the Museum for the Academy of Science.

On Sunday, December 3, the last worship services were held here. As there was no heat because the janitor failed to realize that the building would be used, the sermon was omitted. Two members were received into the fellowship, Mrs. James C. McDonald and Mrs. LaFayette Parker, whose husband had formerly been president of the board of trustees of the church.

The final ceremony of farewell was the presentation of the keys to the new owner, Mrs. Putnam. Then the congregation formed a procession to march to the new church on the hill-top.



Church Nursery in which parents leave their young children during the Sunday morning services. Mildred Haden, supervisor, in 1934.

Back row (left to right): Joy Wren, Patty Wren, Wayne Moulder, Norma Jane Engle, Ann Winchell.

Front row: Joyce Gustafson, Joyce Moorhead, Beverly Gustafson, Helen Winchell.





The members were justly proud of the new church they had erected at Kirkwood Boulevard and Iowa Street in 1899. A saintly elder prayed that they would never worship the building instead of God.

## ON THE HILLTOP

### Chapter V

**Breaking Sod.** There was a drizzling rain and the wind was sharp that morning. But it was a happy crowd that met on the vacant lot at Kirkwood Boulevard and Iowa Street. A brief prayer was offered by the pastor, Dr. J. B. Donaldson, with the Lord's Prayer in unison.

Then a silver-haired little lady stepped forward and took up a shovel. She was Mrs. Mary L. D. Putnam, the senior member of the church. Cutting the sod, she lifted a shovelful to the wagon amid the cheers of applause. She was followed by officials and members of the church, young







"The windows, like the eyes of a friend's face, give illumination and expression". The west windows, in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Cable, represent Hofmann's "Christ at Emmaus" at the moment when the disciples say to him, "Abide with us". The "Church Militant" and the "Church Triumphant" are on either side.

and old, each loading a shovel of earth until the wagon was filled. This beginning of excavation for the new church on the hilltop was March 18, 1898. Four months later the cornerstone was laid.

**Cornerstone.** The Stars and Stripes floated over the construction derrick. The floor of the assembly room was crowded and both streets were jammed with people who remained in their carriages to witness the ceremonies. An impressive address was delivered by the Moderator of the General Assembly, The Rev. Robert F. Sample, D. D., LL. D., (father of Mrs. Donaldson). Numerous articles were deposited in the cornerstone by A. F. Cutter, President of the Building Committee and J. B. Young, Senior Elder. The contractor who lowered the stone into place was Fred Theleman, son-in-law of a former elder, Dr. J. J. Tomson. Striking the stone three times in the name of the triune God, Dr. Donaldson laid the cornerstone. The music was in charge of Miss Henrietta Warren and Professor S. T. Bowlby, with Miss Lillian Smith, the blind soprano, singing "Blest Be the Tie that Binds."

**Making Money.** While the walls were going up stone by stone, every organization in the church was raising money for some part of the furnishings. Mrs. W. D. Middleton gave music lessons, using her fees to purchase a grand piano for the Sunday School; Mr. and Mrs. Priester sold soap chips; the Misses Bessie Burrows and Anna Mason sold candies; Mrs. J. G. Burrows, foot powder; Mrs. A. F. Cutter, jelly; Mrs. William Renwick, vegetables; Miss Anna Rhodes, jelly and yeast; Mrs. Murphy, Parkerhouse rolls, Mrs. J. W. McBride, pictures of the church; Mrs. S. P. Bryant, baking powder; Miss Sarah Davenport, extracts; Mrs. J. B. Young, liniment; Mrs. Johnson, tomatoes; Mrs. E. F. Long, bread; Mrs. C. A. Dopp made kitchen aprons; and Mrs. J. B. Donaldson, handkerchief bags; while Mrs. Cousins did plain sewing and Mrs. George Bechtel made new stockings out of old ones by putting in new feet; Mrs. L. A. Beaver, Mrs. Harrison Bird and Mrs. H. M. Joiner took friends out riding in their carriages for ten cents an hour.

The work of the women in preparing for the occupation of the church





can never be estimated. While the Ladies' Social Society was reimbursed for the money advanced to pay for the ground, they paid \$5000 in cash for furnishings and finishings and for five years contributed a thousand dollars a year on the mortgage.

**New Church.** Dr. Donaldson's description of the beautiful new edifice is fittingly quoted: "The new church was built of Marquette brownstone, which has a magnesian stain known as the 'rain drop' marking. It makes the warmest, richest, stateliest structure that heart could wish. The architecture is Romanesque; the tower is in the style of Richardson, the eminent Boston architect; and the carved oak leaves and foliage in the gables are of Renaissance design. The interior is modified from the medieval churchly lines into a modern octagon; while the ceiling is marked with a Maltese cross in buff and a Greek cross in olive green."

Windows of unusually fine art glass were dedicated to the memory of departed members of the church; on the east side of the sanctuary, the Renwick estate; and on the west, that of Mr. and Mrs. Cable. In the En-

deavor Hall under the balcony, the west window is a memorial to The Rev. Enoch Mead, who helped to organize the church; the next two to Mr. and Mrs. John Middleton and their daughter and son, Mary Middleton Vale and Alexander P. Middleton; two more to the first elder, John McDowell Burrows and his wife, Sarah Meeker Burrows; and the east one to a more recent elder, Edward Roberts and his wife, Jane Roberts.

In the Sunday School Chapel (now the Junior Department), one window was dedicated by Captain and Mrs. Walter Blair to the memory of their son Paul. The center window honored the memory of Mrs. Mary Webb Modemann, mother of Mrs. W. D. Middleton, expressing her love for music. Mrs. Middleton's gift piano was placed in this chapel where she served as Sunday School pianist several years until her health failed.

**First Services.** The first services in the new edifice were held in this chapel on December 3, 1899, after the congregation had given up the keys of the old church and marched up the hill, preceded by a grandson

"The Angel of the Resurrection" with Hope leaning on her anchor and Faith on the cross are "Memorials to that James Renwick who was the last martyr to be burned in Scotland, of his namesake, the father of our music," and his son William.









## Dedication

The dedicatory services were held on Sunday morning, December 17, 1899. The program is found in *The Presbyterian*:

Silent Prayer by Each Worshiper

Prelude—Liebestraum ..... F. Liszt

Doxology and Lord's Prayer ..... Congregation

Jubilate, Balmer ..... Choir

Responsive Reading, Psalm 122 ..... Pastor and People

Coronation, All Hail the Power ..... Congregation and Choir

Prayer ..... Robert F. Sample, D.D., LL.D., Moderator of General Assembly

Treasurer's Report ..... Anthony Burdick

Presentation of Keys ..... A. F. Cutter

Acceptance of the Building ..... G. W. Cable

Apostle's Creed ..... All Believers

Gloria Patria

Sermon ..... W. G. Craig, D.D., LL.D., President of McCormick Theological Seminary

Offertory—"With Verdure Clad," from the Creation ..... Mrs. O. C. Tennis

Dedication Readings

Dedication Prayer ..... Pastor

Dedication Poem ..... Mrs. W. H. Wilson

Postlude—Offertoire in G ..... Ford

### Kirkwood Choir

Professor S. T. Bowlby,  
Organist

Miss Julia Ryan  
Miss Florence Atkinson

Dr. C. R. McCandless  
Dr. Arthur Atkinson

### Broadway Choir

Mrs. J. K. Scott

Miss Julian Hill

Dr. A. H. McCandless

J. A. Johnson

### Building Committee

A. F. Cutter, Superintendent  
G. W. Cable, President

W. A. Blair  
A. Burdick, Treasurer

W. H. Wilson, Secretary  
C. J. Von Maur

### Ruling Elders

J. S. Conner, Clerk  
C. J. Von Maur  
B. T. Stiles

J. S. Wylie  
J. W. McBride  
C. A. Dalzell

Dr. C. R. Baker  
J. B. Young  
M. L. Millsbaugh

### Ushers

Parke T. Burrows  
Edward Torbert  
Hiram Wylie

George W. Cable, Jr.  
George Middleton  
George Bechtel

James D. Mason  
Dr. C. R. Baker  
Harry Betty



of Charles C. Williams (founder of the Sunday School) carrying The Bible. The sermon was preached by the pastor. The Endeavor Hall was dedicated that evening and the first prayer meeting was held on Tuesday evening.

The sanctuary was first open to the public on Wednesday afternoon, when the memorial windows were unveiled in an impressive service. The pulpit, which was dedicated to the memory of the first pastor, The Rev. James Dinsmore Mason, was undraped. The same evening the Social Hall (now the Brotherhood Room) was formally opened for a church dinner and a two-day bazaar, special features of which were an art gallery and a New England kitchen. Dinner was served to four hundred guests, nearly a thousand being present that first evening. Dr. Donaldson was proud of the fact that there were 'no chances, no questionable practices, no appeal to bad motives,' and yet the festival cleared \$1300. Many of the older members have happy memories of this festival even though it meant hard work.

The first Easter Sunday of the new century was celebrated by a union communion service in the new sanctuary, several of the churches of the city participating. That evening there was a sacred concert arranged by Professor Bowlby.

**Wedding.** Wedding bells were frequently mingled with the other joyous sounds of the living, pulsating church. The first marriage to be solemnized in the new sanctuary was

that of Henry W. Voss to Miss Minnie Juanita Mehaffy on August 1, 1900. The master of ceremonies was William Van Der Veer; Miss Juksch, bridesmaid; and William Voss, best man. Mendelssohn's "Wedding March" was played by Mrs. W. D. Middleton.

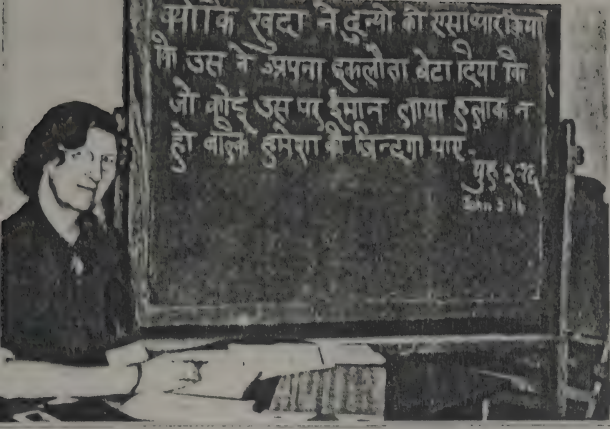
**Synod.** That autumn the Synod of Iowa convened here, the moderator being The Rev. Joseph B. Little, D. D., former pastor. At this meeting the retiring moderator, Dr. Bailey, presented to Dr. Little as moderator a gavel made from the wood of the old and the new church buildings of Davenport.

**Women and Missions.** Simultaneously the Women's Synodical Missionary Society celebrated its silver jubilee along with the local society. The foreign missionaries who were present stimulated new enthusiasm among members of the First Church.

Six months later the Presbyterian Women's Board of Missions for the Northwest was again entertained here. In preparation, Mrs. A. F. Cutter was executive chairman and Miss Josephine Cable, corresponding secretary; Mrs. R. E. Lindsay and Mrs. N. M. Richardson assigned the delegates to the homes for lodging and breakfast; Mrs. C. R. Baker arranged the railroad certificates; and Mrs. Thomas Murray was in charge of the meals at the church where several hundred were served. Mrs. Carpenter (formerly Mrs. Lizzie Howard) came from Minneapolis, and Mrs. William Renwick, from







Miss Maye Annetto Dennis, missionary in Mainpuri, India, spends her days at teaching, caring for the sick and troubled, or deliberating in conferences, but in the silent hours of the early night, she translates into the native language many gems of literature, and composes hymns with original music based on native rhythm patterns.

California, to help welcome the guests.

The delegates were deeply impressed with the spirit of unity that was fostered by taking the cup of the Lord's Supper from the individual chalices all lifted as a single action from the great assembly.

A theme which gripped the imagination was the Boxer uprising in China. The Rev Horace Pitkin, a missionary who had been supporting two mission stations with his own means and had recently been martyred, had left this message to his absent wife regarding their only son: "Take good care of Horace, and when he is 25 years old I want him to come and take up my work in China."

The suffering endured by the missionaries on this and other foreign fields was a powerful challenge to young people to give their lives for the same cause. Of the convention guests seven were candidates for such service. The challenge reached not only the women but also the men of the parish, many of whom heard the addresses.

**Our Missionary.** Immediately there was started in the Davenport church a movement to send out a representa-

tive to the foreign field. The class of boys taught by C. J. Von Maur promptly voted to earn a hundred dollars by mowing lawns and running errands; while the young men's class planned to raise an equal amount, to which the former teacher, Mrs. William Renwick, promised to add fifty dollars. The response was so generous that in six weeks the success of the project was assured, and Harry Betty was appointed treasurer of the fund.

**William M. Barrett.** The first man to represent the First Church in Davenport on the foreign field was The Rev. William M. Barrett, then under appointment to Korea. He had been brought up in Kansas and had served in the Y. M. C. A. during the Spanish-American War. When he was pastor of the Blue Grass church, he had become acquainted with some of the Davenport people. He sailed from San Francisco, August 10, 1901, as a single man and was later married to Miss Elizabeth Carson, also a missionary in Korea. His support, \$650 a year, was given by this church for several years until poor health forced him to resign. The church then adopted another missionary.





Above: Mr. and Mrs. George S. Johnson and Mr. and Mrs. George Bechtel, with the car in which they toured the South together.

Below: Mrs. Fred Wyman, active in the Sunday School and the Women's Missionary Society.



**Fred McCarl.** This missionary enthusiasm spread to the Newcomb Sunday School where, also in 1901, one of the teachers, Fred McCarl, was appointed by the Methodist Board of Missions to take over the management of the mission printing press in the Philippine Islands.

**In Mexico.** Already a few members of the First Church had served under the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions. Abbie Cochrane Nicholson and Mary (Lillie) Cochrane Beall had resigned from the service but were still living in Mexico. Miss Helen M. Cattell had been married to The Rev. Otis C. Olds in 1897 and returned with him as a missionary to Parrall, Mexico, where they served several years, resigning because of The Rev. Mr. Olds' broken health. They are still living in California.

**To Utah.** Mission work in the homeland also claimed some of the young people of this church. Miss Margaret LaVenture joined Ada Taylor in 1906 at Ferron, Utah, where they were teachers in a Presbyterian Mission School for Gentiles and Mormons. Miss LaVenture was later married to William Henry Herrick, a Presbyterian Sunday School missionary at Ferron. Since his death in 1927 she has resided in Davenport. They were followed in a few years by Miss Maye Annette Dennis, who began her life of missionary service there in 1908. Mrs. Emma Reid was in training as a deaconess, serving as a missionary at Newcomb Memorial Chapel and in Omaha, Nebraska.





Having retired from that work, she is now living in Davenport.

**Silver Gifts.** While these members were giving their lives for the evangelization of the world, other men and women of this church were giving money to support the same cause. Miss Elizabeth McKee left a legacy of \$500 and a house, while Mr. Proudfoot left \$200 for the work at Newcomb Chapel. A generous sum bequeathed by Mrs. Mary L. D. Putnam to the Women's Missionary Society was applied on a school for the Pima Indians at Tucson, Arizona. The Rev. Joseph Platt, a retired minister then living in Davenport, left his entire estate of \$100,000 to the colleges and missions of the Presbyterian Church. Smaller gifts were made annually by clubs and classes.

**Young People.** This was the beginning of the era of organized Sunday School classes. Already the boys were conducting summer camps and the girls had a nursery for young children during the Sunday morning worship service. So active was the Christian Endeavor Society that in 1899 the delegates from the Tri-cities chartered a railway coach for their delegates to the Detroit convention, and the next year a large delegation attended the one in California.

The high school girls formed a club in 1904 for social and missionary purposes, calling themselves the Young Ladies' Club. The charter members were Margaret Manker, Gladys Letts, Bessie Joiner, Lucy Johnston, Virginia Millspaugh, Ann and Bess Betty, Hetta Pope, Lucy Boynton, Carolyn and Julia Dennis, and Elizabeth and Pearl Martin; Maye Dennis joined later. They helped in the Flower Mission, under the supervision of Mrs.

P. T. Burrows, to carry bouquets to invalids and shut-ins. For many years they paid the rent on the telephone in the pastor's study and the printing bill for the church calendars. When this name was no longer appropriate, the organization became the Kirkwood Guild.

Many of these charter members were in a Sunday School class which was organized in 1906 into the Fidelis Class taught by Mrs. George S. Johnson, who has served faithfully for thirty-three years. The class has given Christmas baskets for distribution in Davenport, to the relief of the suffering in Armenia, to the support of a French orphan after the World War, to scholarships in mission schools, and provided a scholarship for a Mexican student at the University of Dubuque, later arranging for him to do mission work among the Mexican families of Bettendorf. These girls were active in the downtown Mission Sunday School for many years.

**Brotherhood.** There were organizations to furnish social and benevolent activities for every group in the church except the men, who were so busy with the business of the whole church that they had given no thought to themselves. Influenced by the Laymen's Movement that was sweeping the country, they had held a banquet in 1902 and had met occasionally. However, it was three years later that they organized the Men's Bible Class with Professor W. D. Wells as leader. About the same time, Messrs. R. H. Harned, George Bechtel, and G. S. Johnson attended the first Brotherhood convention in Indianapolis, making this club a charter member of the national organization, with the motto, "Others."



Their orchestra has furnished special music on many occasions. A few of the charter members still remain: Dr. C. R. Baker, Fred J. Glueck, L. W. McKown, P. T. Burrows and A. R. Bawden. Hundreds of laymen have gone out to become active in other churches, many of them organizing Brotherhood classes in their new church homes.

**Fallen Asleep.** Year by year the hand of time was removing from earthly duties many sainted men and women. The pages of *The Presbyterian* paid loving tribute to the memory of John M. Middleton, who had served the church for half a century, and was followed in death by his son, Dr. William Drummond Middleton, whom the pastor called the "beloved physician." Mrs. Samuel Cleland and Mrs. Enoch Mead, wives of pioneer ministers of the church, had survived their husbands for a number of years. Other workers now departed were: James S. Conner, D. N. Richardson, Major George P. McClelland, Captain John L. Dow, Judge William W. Gilliland, Henry Munroe, Elizabeth Andreas, Mrs. Mary L. D. Putnam and The Rev. Joseph Platt.

**To Palestine.** The strain of the work in the parish, together with illness in his own home, was threatening the health of Dr. Donaldson. One day, 1902, Morris Richardson handed him a purse, the gift of a few anonymous friends, which provided him and Mrs. Donaldson a vacation in Palestine. With his brother, The Rev. Wilson E. Donaldson, supplying the pulpit during his absence, he was able to fulfill the dream of a lifetime, returning with health and vigor restored.

**Growth.** There had been a gradual growth in the Sunday School enrollment and attendance in the Seventh Street Church; but as soon as the new building was in use, the increase had been so rapid that within a few months the chapel was overflowing. The division of the school into departments for separate opening exercises had relieved the congestion, so that there was again room for new members. By September, 1907, the enrollment had reached 650 and the church membership was 550.

Among the able men who had served the Sunday School as superintendents were: Dr. M. B. Cochrane, W. H. Wilson, J. B. Young, J. R. Bowman, J. S. Wylie and Charles C. McIntyre. Now Charles J. Von Maur was beginning his long and valuable service. There were weekly meetings of the Teachers' Club which were helpful to the teachers.

**Paying the Bill.** The new Kirkwood church had cost \$86,000, but because of the bankruptcy of the contractor, the church was liable a second time for the price of some materials used in the building. The cost of the lawsuit, together with the claims that were established, brought the cost of the building and its furnishings up to \$100,000. The Portage Stone Company and the Lindsay and Phelps Company granted time payments without interest. In five years, after the completion of the building, the mortgage had been satisfied, leaving only five thousand dollars in notes outstanding.

As the members had become accustomed to subscriptions, they decided in 1906 to discontinue the renting of pews and to depend entirely







JAMES DUNSTON ABBOT  
1849. PASTOR 1859.





upon the subscription plan for meeting local expenses.

"Another subscription? We have just finished paying our pledge for the new building."

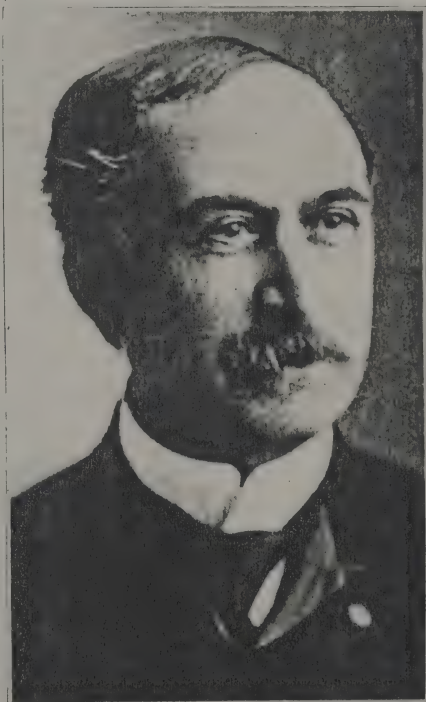
"Oh, if it is just for the running expenses, it won't take much."

Thus the men and women of the parish reasoned as they gave their pledges, and as a consequence there was a deficit that year, a natural result in a group not yet educated to make free will offerings to make up for the large sum formerly obtained from pew rentals.

**Ministers.** Dr. Donaldson's son Henry had died in Davenport and John had barely survived scarlet fever. However, John was soon to enter upon his training for the ministry at Princeton University and later at the Presbyterian Theological Seminary at Chicago. The oldest son, Robert Sample Donaldson, had already been graduated from Princeton, cum laude. Both Robert and John attained eminence in pastoral work in the Presbyterian Church. Robert became Secretary for Promotion, under the Board of National Missions, with the responsibility of raising \$5,000,000 annual budget, and was serving at the time of his death in 1932 as Superintendent of the Presbyterian Church Extension Board of San Francisco. John became a Representative of the Board of Christian Education for the

Synod of Colorado, but was forced to retire at the age of thirty-nine years because of ill health.

Now that the church was established in its new home on the hilltop. The Rev. John B. Donaldson, D. D., resigned, leaving in September, 1907. After a few months of vacation for a much-needed rest, he accepted a pastorate at LaPorte, Indiana, and fifteen years later he was still building churches, at that time dedicating the St. James Church, Oakland, California.

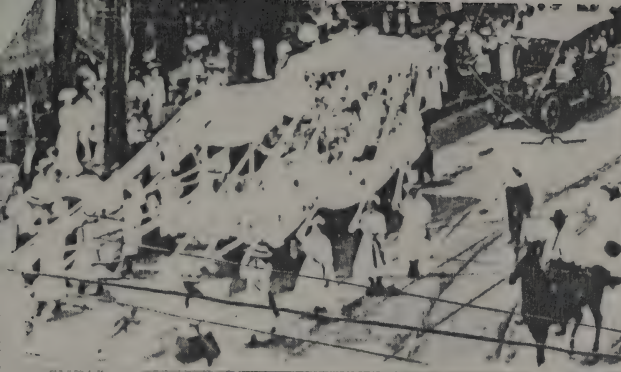


The Rev. John B. Donaldson, D.D., Pastor, 1896-1907, was a scholarly gentleman who visited his parish on a bicycle. He was from a family of clergymen and gave his two sons to the ministry of the Presbyterian Church.

Pulpit of richly carved oak placed in the Kirkwood Boulevard Church as a memorial to the first pastor, the Rev. James Dinsmore Mason, by his son, James B. Mason. The pulpit, together with the three chairs, is now in the Junior Chapel.







Right: Sunday School rally twenty-five years ago. Girls accompanying the float were from the Fidelis Class taught by Mrs. George S. Johnson.

Below: Church picnic at the summer home of Mr. and Mrs. George Bechtel in 1922. Dr. and Mrs. L. M. Coffman in the center.



Until the Sanctuary was remodeled in 1924, the organ filled the chancel and the choir occupied the space in front of it. While the quartet furnished the special music on Sunday mornings, this vested chorus was organized in 1915 to sing on other occasions.

Back row: Alfred Spink, Thomas Ferguson, Fred Glueck, Hans Kuehl, Charles Zuber, Edna Mitchell (organist), Mr. Cresilius, Paul Tornquist, A. A. Georgen, C. W. Hale, Carl Krell, Bertha Townsend

Front row: Mary McCleary, Dorothy Drier, Vera Stuehmer, Fannie Schnitger, Jessie Easson, Carolyn Dennis, Winifred James, Harry Whaley (director), Hazel Perry, Flora Moorhead, Lois Wells, Alma Stafford, Elsie Kuehl, Lena Brandenburg.







## UP AND DOING

### Chapter VI

"It was a big job and we had a lot of fun doing it," said the Presbyterians as they settled down after the excitement of building and paying for the new church.



**Slump.** Unfortunately, the parish was without a pastor for nearly a year, in which time the accumulated deficit, together with repairs at Newcomb Chapel, reached a total indebtedness of nearly ten thousand dollars. Disagreement as to policy led several families to withdraw their membership.

**Leroy M. Coffman.** Then came the new minister. The Rev. LeRoy M. Coffman, D. D., brought up at Burlington, Iowa, graduated from Drake University and McCormick Theological Seminary, and experienced as a teacher and journalist, had been in pastoral work for several years. Coming from Sidney, Ohio, he began his ministry here on June 21, 1908. He and Mrs. Coffman with their three children, Alden, Donald and Ruth, made their home at 1520 Farnam Street.

With characteristic thoroughness, Dr. Coffman acquainted himself with every detail of the church and parish. With an active membership of only 400, the church debt was wiped out before the end of the year, using the \$4500 realized from the sale of the manse at 224 East Twelfth Street, and raising the balance by subscription. By this time the congregation



Mrs. L. M. Coffman and children,  
Donald (standing), Ruth and Alden.

was accustomed to the idea of enlarged subscriptions, so that the annual pledges now met the regular expenses of the church.

All the organizations took on renewed life. At the first meeting of the Brotherhood that autumn there were only two members present, but they went out after the others and in a few years built up a class of two hundred men. Under the leadership of Dr. Coffman, this class became such a body of laymen as is rarely found in any congregation. With their co-operation and support the pastor was able to lead the church in a program of outstanding achievements.

**Newcomb Church.** It was soon apparent that the work of the parish was too heavy for one man. In September, 1909, The Rev. Harold C. Anderson became assistant pastor, with full responsibility for the work at Newcomb Memorial Chapel. At once the attendance there began to





increase. The building was moved to its present location, enlarged and remodeled, being rededicated, January 15, 1911, while The Rev. Arthur J. Marbet was minister. The Rev. F. O. Woestemeyer served two years, followed in 1913 by The Rev. Nelson Dalenberg. The mission was organized into the Newcomb Church, April 30, 1916, with eighty members and The Rev. Mr. Dalenberg as the first pastor. According to the will of Mrs. Newcomb, the property had to remain a trust of the First Presbyterian Church. But since that time the little church has been able to meet its running expenses, being assisted by the First Church when repairs have been necessary.

**Foreign Fields.** When The Rev. Mr. Anderson had served the chapel less than a year, he resigned to accept an appointment to Porta Nova, Brazil, under the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, taking with him as a bride Miss Evelyn Dose, one of the Newcomb Sunday School workers. The young couple gave their lives to the work there, The Rev. Mr. Anderson continuing even after the death of Mrs. Anderson in 1937.

**Foreign Pastors.** Upon the resignation of the foreign pastor, The Rev. William M. Barrett of Korea, the First Church assumed the support of The Rev. E. F. Knickerbocker on the China field in 1909 at \$1000 a year. He was succeeded in 1916 by The Rev. David Ernest Crabb, also of China. The church was so inspired with the reports from the mission field that, with a membership of only 500, the support of a second foreign representative was undertaken in

1911, The Rev. F. B. McCuskey of India, who still continues in that capacity in 1939.

**Church Workers.** The Ladies' Social Society of Church Workers, then known by the last part of its official name, was still raising money, giving \$500 for the enlargement of Newcomb Chapel in 1911, \$400 for the renovation of the pipe organ in 1913, and large annual amounts for the new manse which was built in 1914. Under the inspiration of Dr. Coffman, the emphasis of the society was changed from money raising to "wayside ministry" and spiritual work.

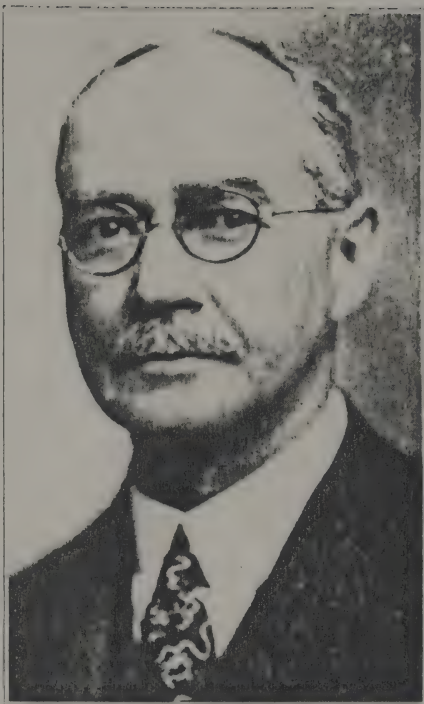
**Bible Class.** Many of the women were active in Sunday School work, but their own class, under Mrs. Joanna G. Burrows, had no activity outside the class hour. In October, 1913, Mrs. D. E. Stafford took the initiative in organizing the Women's Bible Class with charter members: Mesdames D. E. Stafford, Alice Blackett, C. L. Henderson, H. L. Pope, Joe Andrews and J. W. Betty; the Misses Caroline Otis and Minnie Hobson, and Mrs. Ward and Mrs. Paxton. They immediately assembled an orchestra to lead the singing at their worship services. After a few months Mrs. L. M. Coffman became the teacher, which office she filled faithfully for about twenty years. The class has done much to promote the welfare of the church.

**Anti-Knockers.** The Boys' Club was now made up of older boys. As the lads of high school age had no week-day activities, they organized the Anti-Knockers' Class to "study

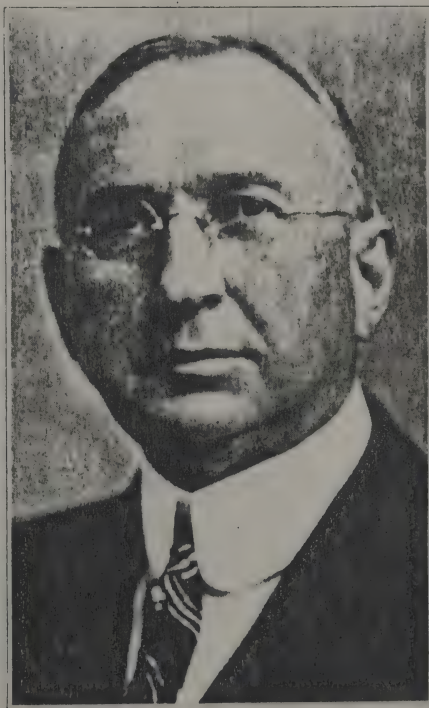


These three outstanding laymen worked together for the interests of the Kingdom of God, the welfare of the First Church, the moral and civic improvement of the city, and the development of Christian character in young people. Keen business judgment and deep consecration made them leaders of men. Until death removed them, they labored shoulder to shoulder with the pastor, making possible the unprecedented growth and achievement of Dr. Coffman's pastorate.

Charles J. Von Maur, Superintendent of the Sunday School for over 30 years, Elder, 1896-1926, and teacher of boys' class. Interest in church work led him to make a visit to the Holy Land in 1925.



George S. Johnson, Elder, 1908-1925, leader in the laymen's missionary movement, which supported a representative of the First Church on the foreign field.



Rowland H. Harned, President of the Board of Trustees for 26 years, Elder, 1904-1937, teacher in the Sunday School for 28 years, and organizer of the City Council of Churches.





## BEHIND THESE YEARS

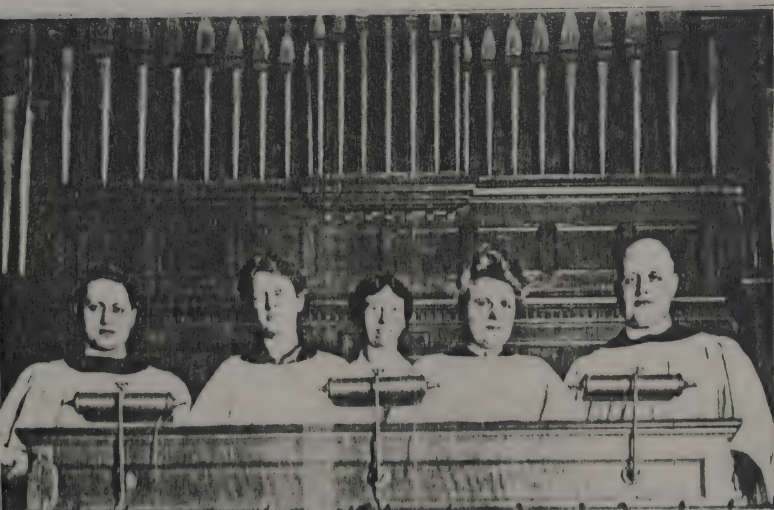
the Bible, lead a better life, help others." The charter of May 10, 1912, was signed by Harry Jager, C. B. Beiderhecke, Frank S. Hanson, Herman N. Uhde, Herbert T. Fennell, Dale Wells, Francis Bowker, Osmer L. Griswold, Charles Goff, Kingman Spalding, Walter Dennis, Dick Von Maur, and W. R. Johnson. They were soon joined by John Armitage, Lester Baldwin, and Allan Stebbins. Under the leadership of Mr. Johnson, these boys had a wholesome program of picnics and athletics, growing up to take a responsible position in the church.

**Scouts.** Only four years after Congress had signed the charter for the Boy Scouts, Troop No. 7 was formed at the First Presbyterian Church, 1914, with David Murray as Scoutmaster. The troop was originally made up of Philip Adler, Stephen Bollinger, Alden Coffman, Austin Goddard, Blair Johnson, Harry E. Miller, Pressly McClelland, Joseph Pelegrin, Chester Salter and George Summers. Along with other organizations they used the Social Room for a gymnasium. When the hitching lot north of the church was no longer needed because the automobile had replaced the horse and buggy, the scouts made it into a playground.

**Opus Excelsis.** The boys boasted so much of their activities that the high school girls wanted to organize. They had difficulty finding a permanent leader until Mr. O. E. Johnson was sent to take the class for the month. That was twenty-five years ago and he is still the leader. The Opus Excelsis (O. E.) Class for many years conducted the nursery during the morning worship period.

The girls had many contests and joint meetings with the A. K. Class. Unfortunately, the records do not show how many marriages resulted from this cooperation. Each class has furnished its own room, including a piano, and has contributed a generous quota of funds and workers to the activities of the church.

**Forward Movement.** One of the secrets of Dr. Coffman's success as a minister was his genius for tireless work and for drawing other people into that work. The Forward Movement, which swept the country during this decade, reached deep into the life of the First Church. A big drive under the leadership of Joseph W. Powell, national Brotherhood organizer, culminated in the Rally of December 7, 1913. The calendar, a copy of which has been preserved by



1916 QUARTET CHOIR

Left to right: Clifford Hakes, bass; Mrs. Hulda M. Matthey, contralto; Edna Mitchell, organist; Grace Ames, soprano; Donald Leslie, tenor.







The Manse at 321 Kirkwood Boulevard.

Mrs. Thomas Murray, although it is over twenty-five years old, radiates the enthusiasm of the pastor and his corps of cooperative officers and members. Everyone was assigned a piece of work for which he was personally responsible. The rally cry was "Save Souls for Jesus Christ." This was the beginning of a great period of rapid growth in this church, the number of communicants now exceeding 700 and the Sunday School enrollment going over 1000.

As the church grew, to provide against over-burdening a few willing workers, the board of trustees was increased from six to nine members and the session from nine to twelve elders. Their work was further lightened by forming the board of deacons whose duty it was to deal with all matters pertaining to poor relief in the congregation. The men chosen January 29, 1914, to be the first deacons were J. T. Easson, L.

W. McKown and J. W. Betty.

With the multiplication of organizations and week-day activities, the clubs and classes were becoming absorbed in their own little programs and losing sight of the central purpose of the church. In order to co-ordinate the work into a unified whole, the Church Council was set up at the end of that year. It was composed of the pastor, the clerk of the session and the presidents of all the organizations of the church.

**Music Director.** With the work at Newcomb Memorial Chapel entirely in charge of The Rev. Mr. Dalenberg, so that the First Church scarcely noticed the withdrawal of the eighty members to organize the independent church, the ministry of the home parish was now too heavy for one man. In April, 1915, Harry A. Whaley became Dr. Coffman's assistant to direct the church music and





1939 Vacation Bible School Class which constructed the side panels of simulated stained glass window.

Left to right: George Crawford, Claire McIntosh, Mrs. Maurice Sparks, Teacher; Duane Grobman, Nancy Lee Turnbull, Virgene Pennewell, Davis Bowers, Delores Kambeck, Eugene Harris, Jack Stull.

the work of the young people and to serve as secretary to the pastor.

There was then a quartet choir of paid singers who soon appeared in vestments. Their services were continued for the morning worship, but Mr. Whaley soon trained a volunteer chorus which sang on other occasions, the Young Ladies' Club furnishing many of the singers. It soon became necessary to enlarge the choir loft to accommodate the large choir. The Cecelian Chorus gave a May Festival in 1917.

**Evangelism.** That same spring there was a special evangelistic program

with Miss Rose Fetterolf employed to visit in the home for a few weeks preceding Easter. She was later married to The Rev. W. F. Baird, D. D., a missionary to Korea. Similar visiting was done the succeeding springs by Miss Hazel Seamen and Miss Sindt.

Miss Maye Annette Dennis, who had already given considerable service in the national missions at Ferron, Utah, and at Daybrook, North Carolina, now completed her training in the Deaconess School, Baltimore, and sailed for Allahabad, India, in August, 1917. As soon as she had acquired

#### 1939 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL FACULTY

Back row: Marjorie Ross, Alfreda Zarges, Director; Oscar L. Gustafson.

Third row: Jacqueline Urmy, Mary Lou Watson, Adelaide Arndt, Mrs. Roy McLain, Eleanor Gruenau, Armilda Platner.

Second row: Jean Watson, Beverly Brownlie, Rose Margaret Spore, Margaret Nickless, Mrs. Robert Wren, Winifred Sleyter.

Front row (left to right): Gertrude McIntosh, Mrs. Maurice Sparks, Helen Schutter, Mrs. Laurance Smith, Mrs. Walter Parker, Ruby Jane Moody, Betty Jane Tomson, Mrs. Dorothy Barlow.







sufficient command of the language, she was assigned to village mission work at Mainpuri, where the variety of her work is limited only by the range of human needs. In June, 1939, she returned from her third term of service there, radiating the happiness known only to those who are meeting the challenges of big tasks in the supreme cause.

**World War.** Miss Dennis was not the only member of the church who sailed for service on foreign soil that eventful year, 1939, of the men, including an elder, Colonel Fred LaMar, being called to the colors because of the World War. At one time the A. K. Class had 77 members in military service. The boys at home kept in touch with them through the A. K. Messenger, a leaflet published by John Bauman, and "The Soldier's Spirit," a Scripture reading course furnished by W. R. Johnson. The only name from this class to appear on the casualty list was that of Private Harry Oddy, severely wounded at Chateau Thierry.

For the duration of the war, the church contributed generously of time and money to meet the social and spiritual as well as the physical needs of the soldiers. Folding Red Cross bandages or knitting sweaters, the hands of women and girls were never quietly folded even in the park, street car or at prayer meeting.

**Father-Son.** While the boys in uniform had first claim on the efforts of the entire nation, the other boys were not forgotten. In fact, they seemed even more precious than before, father-son organizations springing up all over the country. A conference for older boys had been held



"Discovering God Through the Beautiful", under the leadership of Oscar L. Gustafson, 1939, led the Intermediate Group to design and make this Cross with its symbols of Art, Nature, Music and Literature. Left to right: Donald Gaghagen, Dorothy Beintema, and Clemens Cunick.

in the First Church in October, 1916, with the first Father-Son Banquet over a year later on Lincoln's birthday. Since that time the annual banquet has been a red letter day for the boys from tender youth to ripe maturity.

**Mother-Daughter.** Seeing the comradeship fostered by these festivals, the Women's Bible Class sponsored a Mother-Daughter Banquet, March 15, 1920, which has now become a traditional annual event.





**Gospel Abroad.** After the war, a disillusioned world was saying, "If the churches had done their duty in Christianizing the world, the war could never have happened." Accepting that challenge, the First Church was determined to do its part in preventing a recurrence of such carnage. Missions and Christian education were given increased emphasis, several members, including Mrs. Julia McAlister Little and Mrs. J. A. Miller, left bequests for the promotion of this work.

With the church still supporting The Rev. Mr. Crabb in China and The Rev. Mr. McCuskey in India, the clubs were making annual contributions to the support of Miss Dennis in India and the Andersons in Brazil. Now Mrs. R. E. Lindsay (later Mrs. Fred Wyman) and her son, Edwin Blair Lindsay, volunteered to support a missionary in memory of Mrs. Lindsay's mother, Mrs. Margaret Ann Blair, and her husband, Ralph Edwin Lindsay. They maintained Mrs. William Wallace on the Mexico field until her death, when they took over the support of her husband, Dr. Wallace, until his retirement. This memorial gift was continued for fifteen years with such quiet modesty that few of the members knew it was being done.

As a result of the war, cries for help were coming from far and near. The Church Workers were kept busy, making clothing for the Armenian sufferers, the Freedmen of Arkansas, and the destitute of Davenport, served by the Ladies' Industrial Relief Society and St. Luke's Hospital.

**Vacation School.** In the meantime the work of the First Church had in-

creased so that two full-time assistants were needed on the staff. Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Vernon were employed in 1919 as directors of music and educational work respectively. The next summer they started the Daily Vacation Bible School, which each year provides profitable and interesting activity for hundreds of children in the neighborhood. The program includes not only Bible study, but also music and correlated activities, together with recreational games and social features.

**Pipe Organ.** The music of the church was now greatly enriched by the use Mr. Vernon made of his violin. The pipe organ was also fitted out (1919) with an electrical motor, which ended a long series of episodes centering around the organ boy. Most of the young men of the church had sometime contributed to the praise service by pumping the organ. Some who served as regular blowers were Parke T. Burrows, Dr. George Middleton, Oliver Murray, and Albert, Ray and Harry Bawden. For a few years the organ toiled on under the power of the motor, and then it gave place to a new organ.

**Westminster.** The young married people had a social organization which now formed a Sunday School class with Mr. George Innes as leader. Interested in missions, they soon provided an organ for the use of Mr. and Mrs. Anderson in their evangelistic work in Brazil and gave money to build huts in a leper colony in China. Now known as the Westminster Class, they are a vital force in the church.



**Broadcaster.** In order to reach the big church family more effectively, Dr. Coffman began to publish *The Broadcaster*, 1923. For several years it brought into the homes of the parish its weekly messages of information, guidance, comfort and enthusiasm. The bound volume in the pastor's study has preserved for future generations a vivid picture of an energetic church at work.

**More Room.** For some time the cottage west of the church, a bequest of Mrs. Elizabeth Alexander, had been used as a Sunday School annex. Every available space in the church building had been utilized and yet there was not enough room. The auditorium was so full of classes that it sounded like a "blab" school, the young men were in the kitchen, and the boys in the furnace room, while the Young Married People's Class overflowed the tower room.

One day two young men on a fishing trip discussed the condition.

"What can we do about it?" asked Edwin:

"Not very much, I suppose," answered Burdick.

They fished on in silence. That evening as they ate their supper by the campfire, they watched the flames leap in the dark. At last one of them spoke.

"Do you know, I have just been thinking . . ."

"So have I . . ."

A few days after their return to Davenport, the board of trustees received the tender of a gift of \$60,000 for remodeling the sanctuary and

erecting a Bible School building, on condition that the rest of the congregation pledge a similar amount. There were five names on the tender: Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wymān, Mrs. D. N. Richardson, Burdick Richardson and Edwin B. Lindsay—the result of the thinking the two young men had done.

It was not long until the *Davenport Democrat and Leader* printed an editorial by Ralph W. Cram, one paragraph of which is: "'Upholding the church in a practical manner' was exemplified by Davenport Presbyterians, Sunday (May 20, 1923), with pretty near 100 per cent efficiency. Without any high pressure campaign, but simply as an act of worship, after they were fully advised of the need of making their church home proportionate in size to their big family, the Presbyterians opened their pocket-books and poured over \$103,000 on the altar at a single session."

**Bible School.** Soon the plans submitted by Temple and Burrows, architects, were accepted and the contracts let. Ground was broken for the new Bible School building on October 23, two children from the Primary Department cutting the sod. The walls were ready for the cornerstone to be laid the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

The last meeting of the Sunday School in the sanctuary was May 25, 1924, when classes bade farewell to cramped quarters which had been the scene of many happy or sacred memories. The adieu of the A. K. Class on leaving the kitchen was touching. The Young Married People (Westminster) in the belfry tower were looking forward to plenty of room.





The next Sunday the lawn and sidewalks were teeming with excitement as the school of over a thousand pupils and teachers formed into line, class by class. At the signal from the bugler in the belfry the procession, five blocks long, filed into the new building under the direction of L. W. McKown, Field Marshal for the day. First came the crucifier and the standard bearers with the United States flag, the Church flag, and the new church banner; then came the vested chorus choir leading in the singing of "Onward, Christian Soldiers," accompanied by the Brotherhood orchestra. The pastor, Dr. Coffman, standing in his study window, waved his greetings to the classes as they entered.

As the superintendent, Charles J. Von Maur, was unavoidably absent, his message was read by the assistant, T. J. Cowan, who was master of ceremonies. There were short addresses by G. W. Harding, Mrs. Brownlee, Judge F. D. Letts and Dr. Coffman, with a closing prayer by Arnold A. Garthoff, then the Director of Young People's work.

**Child's Greeting.** When Mr. Von Maur returned from an extended trip in the East, it seemed fitting that he should have a special welcome to the new building. Little four-year-old Marilyn Meyer was to present him with a basket of red roses and recite a carefully worded speech of appreciation. But when she saw this great sea of faces, she forgot it. After a moment of confusion, she threw her chubby arms around the superintendent's neck and kissed him. Her spontaneous welcome was an appropriate expression of the esteem in which he was held by the church and Sunday School.

**To Egypt.** About the same time, Arnold A. Garthoff was called to serve as Bursar of the American College of Cairo, Egypt, under the United Presbyterian Board of Missions. After two years of service, he returned on furlough, taking back with him as a bride, Miss Margaret Frank, the soprano soloist of the First Church choir.

**Sanctuary.** During the summer and autumn of 1924, all the services were held in the auditorium of the Bible School because the sanctuary was being remodeled, circular pews being replaced by straight ones and the bowled floor being leveled. The room under the balcony was opened to increase the seating capacity of the main auditorium. When the new organ was installed, its 2600 pipes were placed in the second story, leaving the chancel free to be fitted up with choir stalls and a seat for the minister.

The richly carved oak pulpit and chairs, no longer fitting into the simpler style of decoration, were removed to the Junior Chapel and the pulpit replaced by a new one also dedicated to the memory of The Rev. James Dinsmore Mason.

The decorative chancel mural in Byzantine motif suggests an attitude of prayer and worship. With symbolic rather than realistic line and color, the figures are in harmony with the medieval style of the architecture. Designed and executed by R. J. McKinney, then Director of the Tri-City Art League, it is considered an outstanding piece of American art.

**Memorial Gifts.** From the proscenium arch was suspended an antique silver sanctuary lamp which is burning day and night to symbolize the eternal presence of God. The seven-



branched candlesticks below it were a memorial to Dr. W. D. Middleton, who as a child sixty years earlier, had gone with his father, John M. Middleton, on Sunday mornings, to ring the historic bell at the Third Street Church. He had been a generous supporter of the church at Seventh and Brady Streets, but had lived only a few years after the erection of the Kirkwood church.

The new communion service was a memorial to Ralph Edwin Lindsay. It included patens and trays of solid pewter and an antique pewter communion service consisting of two patens, two chalices, a flagon, and a baptismal bowl.

Miss Laura Jane Rhodes presented a brass altar vase in honor of the thirty-seven years her sister, Miss Anna Mary Rhodes, had helped to arrange flowers on the altar. The

mate to it was presented by Miss Anna in memory of Mrs. Julia McAlister Little.

**Dedication.** The new Bible School Building and the remodeled sanctuary were dedicated in a ten-day series of festivities beginning November 30, 1924, just twenty-five years after the Kirkwood church was first occupied. At the regular Sunday morning worship service, the keys being delivered by the builder, John Soller, the edifices were presented by George W. Cable, Jr., as Chairman of the Building Committee, to R. H. Harned, as President of the Board of Trustees. The Bible, Hymnal, and Book of Remembrance (containing the names of all who had contributed to the building program) were placed on the altar by a member of the session. The address, "A Great Work," was delivered by Dr. Coffman.



Bible School Building, with the front rooms occupied by the church offices.





This was the first occasion on which the new organ was used. The chorus choir gave the oratorio, "Hymn of Praise" by Felix Mendelssohn that evening, with Miss Greta Edner as organist. The dedication of the organ was a week later when the great American organist, Clarence Eddy, gave a concert of classical and modern music. Thus, from the beginning, the new organ has responded to the touch of artists producing the richest quality of music from the world's greatest composers.

The climax of the festivities was the dedicatory address delivered by that great layman of the Presbyterian Church, Dr. Robert E. Speer of New York. The theme of his powerful message was "The Task of the Church."

**Music.** In the spring Miss Margaret Frank started a girls' choir, with Miss Bernice Johnson as accompanist, giving a concert in June. Early the same year the church engaged as music director, A. Cyril Graham, Director of the Augustana Conservatory of Music. Each Sunday morning, preceding the worship services, he gave a short organ recital.

**Mr. and Mrs. Cannon.** Mr. and Mrs. Howard Renwick Cannon now became assistants to the pastor, with special charge of religious education, including the work with boys and young people. Under their supervision was started the weekly mimeographed leaflet, "*Crumbs of Endeavor*," which for several years met the need of the young people during the interim in which *The Broadcaster* was not published.

**Motion Pictures.** The church had to compete with so many attractions

that, in 1927, the motion picture was introduced into the Sunday evening services. At the end of two years it was discontinued because of the scarcity of films interesting to young people and at the same time worthy of a place on the church program. Stereopticon slides, on the other hand, could be adapted for illustrating a wide variety of religious and educational subjects.

**Alfreda Zarges.** Miss Alfreda Zarges became Director of Religious Education in September, 1927. Working in her quiet way behind the scenes and attending to multitudinous details, she has helped the Church School and the Young People's work to attain unusually high standards. Many are the workers she has inspired and trained to become excellent leaders.

**O. E. Johnson.** At the same time, Mr. O. E. Johnson, an active layman in the church, became Director of Boys' Work as a part-time member of the staff. Under his leadership the Boy Scouts and other boys' clubs became increasingly vital factors in the educational and recreational life of the church. He was succeeded four years later by Oscar L. Gustafson.

**Deo Juvante.** The girls just out of high school who had belonged to the Westminster Guild, now organized the Deo Juvante Class in 1926. In its short life this class has had seven different leaders, and yet it has maintained a monthly mission study course during the week and made quarterly contributions to the support of an Indian student nurse in training at Granada, Arizona. Many baskets have been filled to relieve the suffering in Davenport. Recently the girls



knitted bright-colored scarves for the war sufferers in Spain. Mrs. A. S. Nickless has been the leader for four years.

**Ambassadors.** A similar group was formed by the boys of Mr. Harned's class, in 1929, under the leadership of Lawrence "Candy" Evans, the Ambassadors for Christ. For four years out of seven these boys held the championship in the church basketball league at the Y.M.C.A. They sponsored the Mardi Gras in 1931. They held some joint meetings with the Deo Juvante girls and have now become a young married people's class, still retaining their original class name. Dr. A. S. Nickless has recently become the leader.

**Business Women.** The employed women who could not participate in the daytime activities of the Church Workers' Society were organized into an evening circle by Mrs. D. E. Stafford, with the assistance of Mrs. George S. Johnson and Mrs. L. J. Yaggy. Beginning in 1927, they have studied mission work and contributed to its support. They gave to the church the United States flag which is now used on patriotic occasions.

**Women's Gifts.** The women were still very active, the Church Workers in one year, 1920, having earned over \$3,000 to complete the payments on the Bible School Building. In response to Dr. Coffman's teaching on stewardship, several women left bequests to the church. Mrs. Margaret Ann Blair's legacy of \$500 was applied on the support of a nurse, Miss Hepperle, to assist Dr. and Mrs. Anderson at Porta Nova, Brazil. The legacy of several hundred dollars from Miss Elizabeth Putnam was added to the

Newcomb Memorial Fund, the interest to be used for the upkeep of the Newcomb Church building. Miss Rebecca Renwick, niece of the former Miss Rebecca Renwick, at her death on June 2, 1932, bequeathed property to create the James and Elizabeth Renwick Memorial Fund in memory of her parents. The bequest will eventually approximate \$12,000, the income from which is to be used for the benefit of the needy aged people of the church.

**Salaries Cut.** The men and women employed to serve the church made a generous gesture. As the post-bellum depression deepened, they volunteered, from pastor to janitor, to have their salaries reduced. Although the offer was rejected, it was repeated and finally accepted, a fifteen per cent reduction to be effective in October, 1932.

At the same time the services of the paid quartet were discontinued, making a further reduction in the budget. Since that time the choirs have been made up entirely of volunteer singers.

The finances of the church involved no small amount of bookkeeping. For most of the preceding fifty-year period the accounts had been in the hands of three men who served as treasurer: James B. Mason, J. W. McBride and Henry Jager. Mrs. Ida B. Hutchens became treasurer in 1931 and still fills the position faithfully.

**Ministry.** The first Sunday of Dr. Coffman's ministry here, a little boy named Lyle Utts sang a solo at the morning services. That boy soon left Davenport, but his Sunday School teacher, Mrs. D. E. Stafford, has kept track of him. Upon his release from





the army after the World War, he completed his theological training and went into pastoral work for a few years. He then served as chaplain in the army and supervised the religious work of the Civilian Conservation Corps of the country. He is now Director of the Newark School of Music, Newark, Ohio.

About ten years ago a group of boys began training and are now ordained ministers. Everett C. Moorhead, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Moorhead, a graduate of Coe College and the Presbyterian Theological Seminary of Chicago, is now pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Lincoln, Illinois, and is Moderator of the Springfield Presbytery; George E. Steele, son of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Steele, was graduated from Augustana College and from the Presbyterian Seminary at Chicago. He is now serving the Calvary Presbyterian Church and the Memorial Chapel at Fort Dodge, Iowa; Clarence C. Richardson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray B. Richardson, was graduated from Cornell College and the Theological Seminary at the University of Dubuque. He is pastor of the Cascade Community Presbyterian Church, Cascade, Iowa; Lynn Townsend, brother of Thomas O. Townsend, was graduated from Coe College and is now pastor of the Congregational Church at Acton, Massachusetts.

**Holy Land.** When Dr. and Mrs. Coffman had been here twenty years, the church expressed its appreciation by giving them a purse to provide a vacation of a few months in Palestine. They were accompanied by their daughter Ruth (now Mrs. Norval Caldwell of Oskaloosa). Upon their return, the parish, with Mrs. Thomas

Murray as chairman, honored them with a big reception.

**Anniversary.** Perhaps no reception in the church has expressed more appreciation than the celebration on June 18, 1933, of the twenty-fifth anniversary of Dr. and Mrs. Coffman's arrival in Davenport. The sermon by Dr. Coffman was "The Story of a Quarter-Century," printed in the *Davenport Democrat and Leader* the following day. It was followed by a reception in the Bible School auditorium, with Mrs. Thomas Murray presenting the floral gift to Mrs. Coffman, and Theodore Lorenzen, the silver gift to Dr. Coffman. Dr. C. R. Baker presented a folio of messages from absent parishioners and friends. As a fitting close the crowd formed a friendship circle to sing "Blest Be the Tie that Binds."

**Retrenchment.** Then a few more months the minister labored and prayed, giving every ounce of his energy that the church might be spared the spiritual depression which threatened, as a result of the financial depression, to overwhelm the whole country. Already the First Church had been forced to curtail the budget and make retrenchments, but every department kept up to a high standard of service.

Suddenly, with only a moment's warning, the beloved pastor laid down his burden one morning and entered into the spirit world. Dr. LeRoy M. Coffman departed this life on September 27, 1934.

Who was worthy to don the mantle that had fallen from his shoulders?





The Rev. LeRoy Mallon Coffman, D.D., Pastor from 1908 to 1934, when the membership increased from 500 to 1,500. Remembered as a great executive and builder . . . challenging speaker . . . good shepherd . . . beloved friend . . . for his merry laughter . . . quick twinkle of the eye . . . delightful stories . . . kindly counsel . . . understanding prayers . . . comforting visits, unsummoned, just when he was needed . . . constancy of purpose . . . could always be depended upon . . . so fired with enthusiasm for his work that he seemed to have to work fast to get it all done . . .







Intermediate Girls' Choir in 1932.

Back row: Phyllis Jones, Peggy Johnson, Mary Jane Blemker, Arva Mae Ruser, Catherine Case, Dorothy Frazier, Violet Wendhausen, Virginia Quigg, Mae Leona Bientema, Ruth Paulsen, Mildred Fisher, Louise Schulz, Blanche Ressler, Helen Popp, Ruth Frazier, Gerda Brodowsky, Patricia Crozier.

Front row: Oscar Gustafson (director), Mary Sievert, Betty Hage, Emily Shaw, Jean Shillinglaw, Norma Jones.

Choir Social, 1916, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Wells.

Back row: Lois Wells, Alfred Spink, Elsie Kuehl, Alma Stafford, Winifred James, Lena Brandenberg, Jessie Easson, Lettie Dennis.

Third row: Fred J. Glueck, Harry Whaley (director), Flora Moorhead, Dorothy Drier, Esther Christiansen, Florence McCleary, Mary McCleary.

Second row: Paul Tornquist, Bertha Townsend, Fannie Schnitger.

Front row: Al Georgen, Edwina Wells, Hans Kuehl.



Senior Choir in May, 1931.

Back row: W. L. Heysinger, Keith Piper, Richard Gainey, Dean Handley, Robert Innes, Evan Byrd, Oscar J. Kendall, Sutherland Miller, Chester Hennings, Oscar Woodward, Clarence Moulder.

Second row: Vera Meinert, Agnes Wieneke, Roberta Ray, Irene Blackman, Caroline Ladd, Mabel Breeding, Henrietta Wieneke, Louise Nelson, Mrs. F. M. Casjins, Mrs. O. E. Johnson.

Front row: Mae Illian, Alice Stromgren, Jennie Burton, Dorothy McClanahan, Grace E. Smith (organist), G. Everett Anderson (director), Margaret Looney, Mrs. L. T. Watson, Nell Kirby, Helen Tefft Cassling.





## THE FIRST MILESTONE

### Chapter VII

A great man of God was gone! Hearts were stricken with grief at his sudden passing.

**Recovery.** But the life of the church was not ended, for the very walls and corridors seemed to echo with his tireless step and cheerful spirit urging his friends to be strong and of good courage. The First Presbyterian Church had for nearly a century withstood the shock of hardship, discouragement and loss. It could not fail now.

"Out of loyalty to Dr. Coffman, we must carry on," said the staff, and "Carry on!" became the slogan of the entire congregation.

Mr. Oscar L. Gustafson, Minister of Music, and Miss Alfreda Zarges, Director of Religious Education, stepped forward as they knew their departed leader would have wished them to do. Working to the limit of their strength, they met with a re-

sponse from the congregation that would have gratified the soul of Dr. Coffman. Each Sunday there was a capable speaker with a timely message, and not for a single Sabbath during the seven months that the church was without a pastor did the attendance or the offering fall below the standard of the preceding year.

But there must be another shepherd for the flock. A committee composed of Rowland H. Harned, Parke T. Burrows, William R. Johnson, Edwin B. Lindsay, and Ernest C. Heuck, Jr., (representative of the young people at their request), traveled over 8,000 miles in a period of five months, interviewing the ablest ministers and studying their work.

**Alfred S. Nickless.** The new pastor arrived in time for the Mothers' Day services, 1935. The Rev. Alfred Samuel Nickless, D.D., was born in England and trained in the Presby-

Enjoying Christmas Eve together are the members of the Nickless family, left: Lester, Dr. Nickless, Helen, Mrs. Nickless, and Margaret.







terian Theological Seminary at Chicago, coming to this charge from the First Presbyterian Church of San Francisco, California. At his installation, May 28, 1935, the sermon was given by The Rev. John Timothy Stone, D.D., President of the Chicago Theological Seminary and Past Moderator of the General Assembly. The charge to the pastor was delivered by his younger brother, The Rev. Percy M. Nickless, D.D., Pastor of the Central Presbyterian Church of Des Moines.

Dr. and Mrs. Nickless and their children, Lester, Margaret and Helen, entered into the life of the church and community, and the work went forward without interruption.

The depth of the depression had passed but the financial situation was still difficult, many members having lost heavily in business. Some of the generous contributors had died and others had moved out of town. The church missed their spiritual influence as well as their gifts, but the great organization went steadily on with its work.

## The Church Today

Now a hundred years has elapsed since that courageous little beginning in the wilderness. Thousands of devout men and women have sacrificed that the church might live and grow. A membership of ten has multiplied to 1500, and the tiny log cabin has given place to larger and larger edifices until a beautiful sanctuary and a commodious Bible School building have been attained.

Instead of only an occasional sermon by a visiting minister, the church now maintains a seven-day program

with devotional, educational, social and recreational activities for all ages. The Church School, with an enrollment of 1,244 and an average attendance of 750, has nine departments ranging from pre-nursery to young people, beyond which are seven organized adult classes. The Home Department serves the shut-ins, and the Cradle Roll, the infants; while the nursery takes care of young children whose parents wish to attend church.

**Clubs.** The Society of Church Workers and the Women's Missionary Society have been combined to form the Presbyterian Women's Association with five regular circles and three special groups: the Young Married Women's Circle, the Business Women's Circle and the Kirkwood Guild. They raise most of their funds by subscription, but still hold many festivals such as bazaars, hobby shows, banquets and teas. Other departments of the church sponsor special programs also—concerts, pageants, and the Kermis, having significant social and educational value.

The Presbyterian Men's Fellowship is only two years old and is bringing together many fine businessmen who would not otherwise have an opportunity to become acquainted. It sponsored the first Father-Daughter Banquet on October 24, 1939, fostering a spirit of comradeship between the men and the girls of the church.

The gymnasium furnishes a wide variety of recreation. Departmental and class teams participate in inter-church tournaments. Two troops of Boy Scouts and one of Girl Scouts now have a total enrollment of about seventy-five.



## THE FIRST MILESTONE

**Choirs.** The ministry of music, under Mr. Oscar L. Gustafson, includes the work of five vested choirs in which are enrolled over two hundred voluntary singers ranging from the fourth school grade to adulthood. For nine years he has carried on a systematic program of graded instruction in music and musical appreciation, cultivating the attitude of reverence and worship.

Beginning with the children's choir of Cecelian Carollers, on the basis of merit, the girls are promoted to the Intermediate Girls' A Cappella Choir and the boys to the Cathedral Singers. Young people of high school age, who have attained a high standard of musical accomplishment and measure up to the attendance and attitude qualifications imposed by the self-gov-

erned group, are admitted to the Eventide Choir.

"Our singing shall be to the glory of God" is the watchword of the Senior Choir which provides the music of the morning worship services. With compensation in terms of musical experience and spiritual growth, these men and women have consecrated their talents to the praise of the Master.

Miss Grace E. Smith, church organist for twelve years, and her assistant, Laurance Smith, assist in training the choirs, serving at the public worship hour and on special occasions. Professional musicians are volunteer accompanists for the children's choirs, making valuable contributions to the training of the boys and girls.

Dr. A. S. Nickless in consecration service for Edward Davis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Grayson.







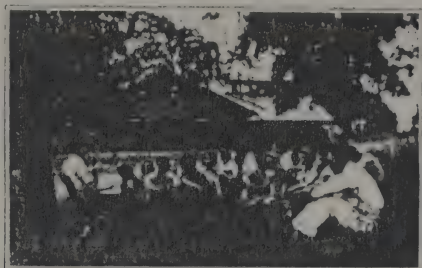






## THE FIRST MILESTONE

Planning group of the Eventide Fellowship in 1938, with Camp Lincoln cabin in the background.



Sunrise Communion Service at Camp Lincoln for the Eventide Fellowship retreat in 1938.

Left to right: H. A. McIntosh, H. E. Johnson, Dr. A. S. Nickless, C. C. Minard, George Innes.

Miss Alfreda Zarges at Camp Lincoln for the Eventide Fellowship retreat.

The Kermis in 1937 brought the world to Davenport, with costumes, curios, and skillfully improvised scenery to depict foreign home life in a realistic way. Under the direction of Miss Zarges and Mr. Gustafson, the Festival had unusual educational and spiritual value. Thousands of adults were in attendance and one day a thousand school children took a miniature world tour under competent guides.







**Eventide Fellowship.** The most unique work of the First Presbyterian Church is the Eventide Fellowship which has attracted nation-wide attention. Under the guidance of adult advisors, chief of whom are Miss Alfreda Zarges and Mr. Oscar Gustafson, the young people plan and conduct the dignified Sunday evening worship services in the church sanctuary and then divide into small groups for the discussion of subjects that claim the interests and relate to the problems of youth today. The evening is concluded with a period of fellowship for the combined group, with music, conversation, and simple refreshments, ending with the fellowship circle, the benediction and the taps in the distance. Thus the sanctuary is open to the young people, giving light for their guidance and fellowship in a world that is not always friendly; and the youth is encouraged to turn to the church with all his problems.

**Summer Service.** Each summer for three days about eighty young people and their adult leaders meet at Camp Lincoln, and there in the spirit of devotion, analyze the youth program of the church and make plans for the ensuing year. This retreat is a rich experience for the youth.

The Vacation Bible School has become an established summer activity for over two hundred boys and girls from four to fourteen years of age. Young people volunteer their services as teachers and assistants.

Every year a dozen or more young people are privileged to attend youth conferences, gaining deep inspiration. Others, along with adult leaders, take training courses at the Leadership Training School at Wooster, Ohio. In

fact, most of the present departmental leaders of the church school have had training there.

**Standard Training.** However, it is not necessary for workers to go so far for training. The Scott County Standard Leadership Training School was organized a decade ago by Miss Zarges, who served as its dean for seven years. The First Church still takes a leading part in this work.

**Retreat.** For the last four years the church officials and leaders have devoted one Sunday each autumn to a planning conference at Camp Lincoln where the work of the preceding year is evaluated and that of the ensuing year is discussed. Addresses by laymen and the members show deep insight into the religious problems of the day.

**For Others.** The First Church still shows its deep interest in the welfare of other people by contributing to many forms of benevolence. It supports The Rev. F. B. McCuskey as a pastor in India, and contributes annually to the work of Miss Maye Dennis there and that of Dr. H. C. Anderson in Brazil. The Sunday School has for seven years contributed to the support of The Rev. J. T. Jones, Secretary of Work among the Negro race in the southern states. It also provides two annual scholarships for ministerial students.

There is a strong emphasis on Christian education as a part of the local church program and also for the higher training of the young people, many of the leaders giving time and money for the promotion of Presbyterian colleges and seminaries. At present five young men from the congregation are in training for Christian



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leadership: Curtis Gruenau and William Hage at the Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Chicago; Richard Hampton and Robert Spencer at the University of Dubuque; and Roger McShane at Princeton University.

In order to meet the needs of a living, changing church in an age of transition, in 1938 the buildings were remodeled and redecorated at a cost of \$13,000. For this purpose a gift of three thousand dollars was made anonymously. The sanctuary hymnals were presented as a memorial to Mary Ann McDonald, symbolizing the happiness she had experienced as a singer in the children's choir. At the same time, a thanksgiving fund was used to provide a car for Mr. McCuskey to replace the one this church had given him seventeen years ago, and smaller gifts for Miss Dennis and Dr. Anderson. Three hundred dollars was given to Newcomb Church.

**Staff.** Today the church employs a staff which includes the pastor, the minister of music and director of boys' work, the director of religious education and young people's work, the church secretary, the part-time treasurer, the part-time organist and assistant, and the janitor and assistant. The session consists of eighteen elders, the board of trustees of nine members, the board of deacons, nine; and the educational council, fifteen. However, were it not for the splendid cooperation of the entire membership, the far-reaching program of the church could not be carried out.

### 100 Years

This is the church that has grown from that small beginning in the wilderness, a church to which over 6000 people have at some time



Ceremonial of the Eventide Fellowship in which a faggot for each member is bound to the Cross with bonds of loyalty, humility, sacrifice and service. Richard Hampton places the bundle of faggots on the altar as Phyllis Jones repeats the four-fold pledge.

pledged their loyalty, a church which has raised over a million dollars for local expenses and nearly half a million for the promotion of the Kingdom of God outside of Davenport, a church that has started five other churches in the county and given assistance to many more. The influence of this great church in the community cannot be measured, for it has cooperated in countless movements for civic and cultural improvement, and has given to the world hundreds of stable Christian homes and unnumbered consecrated men and women.

This church stands as a memorial to the faith, courage and sacrifices of that little band of pioneers and their train of followers who have built the





great structure of today. In the spirit of humility and reverence, the centenary of its founding was commemorated in the spring of 1939. The making of the church was vividly portrayed in "The Church in Retrospect," the sermon by The Rev. Dr. Nickless on March 5. Further appreciation of the work of the founders and builders was developed in the youth program at the Presbyterian Rally a few days later.

The pioneer atmosphere was produced at festive social occasions by the use of costumes, furniture and decorations loaned from the treasures of many Davenport families. Banquets were served by the light of candles and kerosene lamps on tables laid with rare glass and antiques. Amid the picturesque scenes and the flutter of gay costumes was the somber note of hardship and privation which was set at naught because of the devotion of the stalwart characters.

**Messages.** Many sides of frontier life were reverently presented in the pageant, "Behind These Years," on March 30. It was more than a historical dramatization, for it was in close keeping with the stirring messages brought by such speakers as The Rev. Charles W. Welch, D.D., Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.; The Right Rev. Harry S. Longley, D.D., Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of Iowa; The Rev. George Arthur Frantz, D.D., Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of

Indianapolis; The Rev. David I. Berger, D.D., Dean Elect of Coe College; and The Rev. Bruce McCullough, D.D., Pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Clinton, Iowa.

Of unusual significance were the devotional services conducted by Dr. and Mrs. Robert E. Speer of New York. The men and women who worshiped with them were inspired to dedicate their lives anew to the work of the kingdom and to live courageously the simple teachings of the Man of Galilee.

The Sacrament of the Holy Communion took a richer meaning at the one-hundredth Easter services of the church, blending the great forces of the past with those of the present in a stream of consecrated power that flows on into the coming centuries.

**The Milestone.** We, the men and women, boys and girls of the living present, now stand at the first milestone, holding in our hands the heritage of the past and in our hearts the deep gratitude for those who have placed their offerings on the altar of sacrifice that the Church of Christ might live.

Behind us lie the vast frontiers subdued by our forefathers and before us stretch the limitless expanses of the years to come. Just as our forefathers encountered an unknown wilderness, so we are facing an uncharted future. What heritage will we pass on to the generations yet to come?



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The speaker at the Centennial Banquet was the Rev. Charles W. Welch, D.D., Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church. He is shown (right) with Dr. A. S. Nickless (standing) and W. R. Johnson (left), Chairman of the Centennial Committee.



Dr. and Mrs. Robert E. Speer and the reception committee that welcomed them to Davenport for the Centennial celebrations. Standing: Mrs. A. S. Nickless, Mrs. Clifford Baxter, Arthur Holstrom, Mrs. Speer, Dr. A. S. Nickless, Pastor; George Innes, Mrs. Innes. Seated: Dr. Speer and W. R. Johnson.







## 100th Anniversary Program

1839-1939

- Sunday, March 5, 11:00—Sermon, "The Church in Retrospect" by Dr. A. S. Nickless
- Thursday, March 9, 7:45—Presbyterian Rally—Worship Service by Eventide Fellowship  
"We Mould the Eager Dreams They Left Us," by Dr. Bruce McCullough, Pastor  
of the Presbyterian Church at Clinton, Iowa.
- Sunday, March 12, 11:00—Sermon, "The Church in Prospect," by Dr. A. S. Nickless
- Thursday, March 16, 6:30—Centennial Banquet—Guest Speakers, The Rev. Charles  
W. Welch, D.D., Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church  
of the U.S.A.; The Right Rev. Harry S. Longley, D.D., Bishop of Episcopal Di-  
ocese of Iowa.
- Sunday, March 19, 11:00—Sermon: "What Is Christianity?" by Robert E. Speer, D.D.,  
LL.D., Litt.D.
- Sunday, March 19, 7:15—Sermon: "The Revelation of Christ," by Robert E. Speer,  
D.D., LL.D., Litt.D.  
Worship Services daily this week led by Dr. and Mrs. Speer.
- Sunday, March 26, 11:00—Sermon "Man's Extremity, God's Opportunity," by Dr.  
A. S. Nickless.
- Thursday, March 30, 7:45—Pageant, "Behind These Years," Oscar L. Gustafson, Di-  
rector
- Sunday, April 2, 11:00—Palm Sunday Theme, "Behold, Thy King Cometh," by Dr.  
A. S. Nickless
- Thursday, April 6, 7:45—Maundy Thursday, Holy Communion
- Friday, April 7, 12:00 to 3:00—Good Friday Service  
7:45—Excerpts from Lenten Cantatas by All Choirs
- Sunday, April 9, 6:30—Sunrise Easter Services  
9:30—Sermon, "Eternity in the Heart" by Dr. A. S. Nickless  
11:00—Centennial Easter Communion with Reception of 109 new members
- Thursday, April 13, 7:45—Dinner in honor of all new members who united with the  
church during the past year; Guest Speaker, The Rev. David I. Berger, Pastor of  
the First Presbyterian Church of Muscatine, Iowa.
- Sunday, April 16, 7:15—University of Dubuque, A Capella Choir
- Thursday, April 25—Annual Meeting of the Presbytery of Iowa City  
6:15—Dinner in honor of the Presbytery—Guest Speaker, The Rev. George  
Arthur Frantz, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis, Indiana



## BEYOND THESE YEARS

By ALFRED SAMUEL NICKLESS, D.D.

### Chapter VIII

As we have read the pages of this book we have been looking at our beloved church in the light of one hundred years. We have seen something of her glorious past, from the day of very small beginnings. We have glimpsed something of her struggle and growth in days that were difficult, coming right through years of great testing to her present period of achievement and realization. We pay our high and gracious tribute to all those worthy souls who from the very beginning gave themselves in undying devotion, and rich, consecrated and self-sacrificing service, in order that we might share in the priceless heritage which it is ours to enjoy today as a church. Now we stand upon the threshold of another century. It is ours to build, upon the work which has already been accomplished, an even more glorious church.

Our thought here deals with the church of the living present and the still more dynamic and challenging future. There is a word which comes to us out of the recent world conference of Christians held in Madras, India last year—"Let the church be the Church." This is what the First Presbyterian Church of Davenport, Iowa must continue to be, never a society or club but "the Church." She will only continue to be this as she ever seeks to help boys and girls, young men and maidens, men and women, to gain and hold a sense of the true meaning of life as revealed and interpreted and made possible by the great head of the Church, Jesus Christ. As we strive in our fellow-

ship as members of this church to keep alive an awareness of the reality of God in all of our life.

Theology is important, laws and principles of conduct are necessary, a clear-cut philosophy is always helpful, but that which comes to the heart and satisfies the soul is the message of a living person. We must continue to believe as did our forebears in the invincibility of the church as long as she remains true to her Living Lord.

First Church has come through some very dark days within the last century, and it may be that even darker days are ahead in the light of all of the events which are transpiring in our world today. But the fact that the church universal has persisted through nineteen hundred years, and our own Presbyterian communion has lived through one hundred years within the larger fellowship of the church of God, should be sufficient to strengthen our confidence in her as she faces the future, providing she continues true to the divine mission entrusted to her.

This mission our church will find in the consciousness of the unique relationship which is ever the church's when she lives in closest relationship with Him who is the living Savior and Lord. Let our church continue to proclaim unceasingly and fearlessly the Kingdom of God's distinctive message to a world needing that message, and faithfully serve as an organizing factor for the Divine Kingdom in relationship to life in every realm. For the individual still needs that which





the church alone can give, not only in comfort and guidance but in conviction and challenge.

But not only does the individual need the cleansing winds of God's redeeming grace to sweep through his life, but also those other vast areas of life as they confront us today. Our homes must yield to the pervading influences of God's truth and light. Our social life must be brought more and more into the Kingdom of God domain. Our commerce and industry must recognize that their only pledge for continuance is as the principles of the Galilean are taken seriously within these realms, our politics both nationally and internationally must come under the sway of the teachings and influence of the Prince of Peace or else we are headed for the jungle as nations.

So from out of the walls of First Church let there continue to go in ever-increasing numbers those who are imbued with these ideals. Let there go also those outstanding young men and women thoroughly trained, intellectually equipped, stalwarts in Christian character, full of fervor and zeal who are definitely committed to the Christian emprise as ministers and missionaries.

Within the church let us come to feel our oneness in increasing strength in one united fellowship in connection with the different organizations and departments of the church's life which have come to mean so much to the life of the members of our communion, educationally, socially, and spiritually. Never should we lose our conception of the church in its relationship to the city, the state, the nation and the world beyond our own national boundaries. For no church can live if it is parochial in its outlook

and spirit. And one of the glories of First Church has been revealed in this, that even before the present church edifice was fully paid for, the membership of nearly five hundred was supporting a full-time Christian missionary in another part of the world. What should not a fellowship of nearly fifteen hundred souls be doing?

We rejoice that so much has been done through the consecrated labors of heroic souls to give our church the leadership which she possesses, in the splendid educational program, the school of choirs, the devoted labors of men and women in their respective fields, along these avenues we are able to translate the experiences of a vital Christianity, which is for life's everyday. Our prayer is that increasingly the conviction may possess us that it is only as the power which is beyond, works through us for good in the world about us, will the church merit its right to continue through another one hundred years. For as one has expressed it, "The church which attempts to have Christ without sharing Him with others will surely die. The spirituality of the church at home, and its power to redeem those nearest is inseparably locked up with its passion for those who live in the far places of the earth. We must evangelize or perish."

All this means bigness of mind and spirit, venturesomeness and consecration on our part. And so we accept the unknown and untried future as a free gift from the hands of One who has not failed our church through these last one hundred years, One who has been with his church from the beginning, the Captain of our Salvation. With Him at the helm we face the future with confidence and courage.





This is the church whose members will shape the deeds recorded  
in the story of the next one hundred years.





# Centennial Committee

## Executive Program Committee

W. R. Johnson, Chairman	Arthur J. Holstrom	A. I. Naumann
Mrs. C. A. Davis, Secretary	George Innes	Mrs. Otto Nobis
Mrs. Clifford Baxter	H. J. Lytle	M. N. Richardson
Harry B. Betty	Mrs. H. J. Lytle	Mrs. E. G. Senty
Parke T. Burrows	Mrs. Donald McDonald	Eugene A. Springer
Oscar L. Gustafson	L. E. Milota	Miss Alfreda Zarges

## Purpose and Achievement

Dr. A. S. Nickless	W. R. Johnson	George Innes
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## Co-Ordination

W. R. Johnson	L. E. Milota
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## Meetings with Dr. and Mrs. R. E. Speer

George Innes, Chairman	L. M. Turnbull	H. J. Lytle	Mrs. Clifford Baxter
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## New Member's Dinner

Dr. J. C. Peart, Chairman	C. C. Minard	Mrs. Rose Johnson
Don Healey	Mrs. Jerry Jager	

## History

Mrs. E. G. Senty, Chairman	Ralph W. Cram	Mrs. Thomas Murray
Parke T. Burrows	Mrs. D. E. Stafford	Alice N. Vogt

## Pageant

Mrs. Donald McDonald, Chairman	Roy W. McLain	Laurance E. Smith
Mrs. J. Ross Lee	Mrs. Alton Collins	Blair Johnson
Mrs. C. H. Baxter	Karl E. Madden	Oscar L. Gustafson
Mrs. E. G. Senty	Floyd Whitted	Mrs. O. L. Gustafson

## Exhibits

Mrs. P. T. Burrows	L. W. McKown	Howard McLaughlin
Mrs. D. E. Stafford	Burdick Richardson	Mrs. Howard McLaughlin
Roy McGimpsey	Mrs. Roy McGimpsey	

## Centennial Dinner

Parke T. Burrows, Chairman	Cable Von Maur	Charles L. Baker
Mrs. H. J. Lytle	Mrs. L. H. Kornder	

## Building Remodeling

George W. Cable, Chairman	Edwin B. Lindsay	George W. Bechtel
Mrs. Fred Wyman	Mrs. J. Ross Lee	

## Centennial Building Fund

Burdick Richardson, Chairman	Charles L. Baker	Karl E. Madden
W. P. Ammerman	A. T. Danico	Arno Meyer
H. R. Bartlett	Fred Glueck	C. C. Minard
A. R. Bawden	Ernie C. Heuck	Wm. Sanford
Clifford Baxter	Blair Johnson	Don Shawver
Frank Betty	L. W. McKown	John Shenk
Harry B. Betty	Jesse J. McShane	Cable G. Von Maur

## Celebration Fund

George Innes, Chairman	Clifford H. Baxter	Edwin B. Lindsay
Harry B. Betty	Grace Frank	H. J. Lytle

## Publicity

Arthur J. Holstrom, Chairman	Karl E. Madden
Albert R. Bawden	Oscar L. Gustafson

## Publication

Eugene A. Springer, Chairman	Bruce Crozier	Mrs. H. J. Lytle
Mrs. E. G. Senty	Alice N. Vogt	



## APPENDIX

### CHURCH STAFF IN 1939

Alfred Samuel Nickless	Minister	Ida B. Hutchens	Treasurer
Alfreda H. Zarges	Educational Director	J. J. McShane	Benevolence Treasurer
Oscar L. Gustafson	Minister of Music	Grace E. Smith	Organist
F. B. McCuskey	Missionary in India	Laurance M. Smith	Assistant Organist
Alma Cale Lundberg	Secretary	Frank E. Lightner	Sexton
Mrs. L. J. Yaggy	House Mother	Eugene Lightner	Assistant Sexton

### RULING ELDERS

Roscoe E. Beedee	Dr. Charles R. Baker	Charles L. Baker
Earl A. Forkner	George Innes	Thomas J. Cowan
William R. Johnson	O. E. Johnson	H. E. Johnson
Roy W. McLain	Edwin B. Lindsay	Jesse J. McShane
Aaron I. Naumann	C. Clyde Minard, Clerk	Dr. J. C. Peart
Floyd Whitted	Louis J. Yaggy	Irvin H. Schmitt

### TRUSTEES

Harry B. Betty, President	Parke T. Burrows	Harry J. Lytle
Albert R. Bawden, Sec.	George W. Cable	Cable G. Von Maur
George M. Bechtel	M. N. Richardson	Oliver Murray

### DEACONS

W. P. Ammerman	Harry W. Baker	W. H. Heiny
Arnold W. Meyer	A. T. Danico	E. C. Heuck, Sr.
Harvey S. Bates	Paul C. Cunick	Jerry Jager

### COUNCIL OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Alfreda Zarges, Director	A. S. Nickless, Pastor	A. I. Naumann, Supt.
Ernie C. Heuck, Jr., Chair'n	Floyd Whitted	Mrs. L. M. Smith, Secretary
Roy W. McLain	William R. Johnson	Mrs. L. M. Turnbull
Mrs. Blair Johnson	Howard Makeever	Mrs. G. S. Johnson

### CHURCH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

General Superintendent—A. I. Naumann

Pre-Nursery—Mrs. Dorothy Barlow	Junior—Mrs. Paul Cunick
Nursery—Mrs. C. Fred Miller	Intermediate—Floyd Whitted
Kindergarten—Mrs. Cecil Cook	Senior—Carl Lundquist
First Primary—Mrs. Roy W. McLain	Young People—Ernie C. Heuck, Jr.
Second Primary—Dorothy Papes	Cradle Roll—Mrs. Floyd Whitted
Third Primary—Alfreda Zarges	Home Department—Mrs. N. H. Ringstrom

### ADULT CLASS PRESIDENTS

Brotherhood—Eugene Springer	Fidelis—Jennie E. Burton
Anti-Knockers—George Van Houten and Arnold W. Meyer	Opus Excelsis—Norma Shado
Women's Bible—Mrs. A. T. Henderson	Ambassador—Donald G. Healey
Deo Juvante—Evelyn Rasche	Westminster—Arthur J. Holstrom

### ORGANIZATION LEADERS

Women's Association—Mrs. J. Ross Lee	Men's Fellowship—Glenn Beavers
Circle Chairmen—Mrs. C. J. Buhrer, Mrs. Harry Chesebro, Mrs. Wallace B. Easton, Mrs. W. J. Fowler, Mrs. Noah B. Hage	Kirkwood Guild—Ethel Lowry
Young Married Women—Mrs. L. E. Milota	Business Women's Circle—Mrs. W. F. Hunt
	Girl Scout Leader—Mrs. H. E. Hempel
	Scout Masters—Leslie Wright and Malcolm Jones

### VESTMENT GUILD

Mrs. Clifford Chartier	Mrs. Roscoe Beedee, Choir Mother	Mrs. Victor Sayer
Mrs. C. S. Clevenstine	Mrs. Blair Johnson	Augusta Westphal
	Mrs. Rose Johnson	





# BEHIND THESE YEARS

## RESULTS OF THE EVERY-MEMBER CANVASS OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

As reported to the Session and Board of Trustees, May 1, 1939

	For Local Operations	For Benevolences	Total Amount
Budget for 1939 .....	\$21,367.00	\$ 4,846.00	\$26,213.00
Amount pledged to date .....	21,669.76	4,131.70	25,801.46
	\$ 332.76 above budget	\$ 714.30 short of goal	
Total amount pledged in 1939 .....	\$25,801.46		
Total amount pledged in 1938 .....	24,169.25		
Increase over last year .....	\$ 1,632.21		
New members received between May 1, 1938 and May 1, 1939 .....			145
Present number of active members .....			1,484
		1939	1938
Members (or families) pledging the same amount as last year .....		368	354
Members (or families) decreasing their pledge below last year .....		55	73
Members (or families) increasing their pledge over last year .....		147	140
New pledges .....		123	103
Total number of pledges .....		693	670

### Pledges Grouped According to Amounts

	1939	1938
Number pledging \$ 13.00 (25 cents a week) or less .....	314	323
Number pledging \$ 14.00 to \$ 26.00 .....	195	122
Number pledging \$ 27.00 to \$ 52.00 .....	108	115
Number pledging \$ 53.00 to \$104.00 .....	42	74
Number pledging \$105.00 to \$208.00 .....	23	22
Number pledging \$209.00 and over .....	11	14
Total number of pledges .....	693	670
Number of pledges of \$1.50 a week or more .....		53
Amount of pledges of \$1.50 a week or more .....		\$11,644.00
Portion of the total amount pledged .....		44 per cent

### Determination Sunday

Number of pledges turned in on Determination Sunday and the succeeding week, before the Every-Member Canvass .....	432
Number of pledges resulting from the Canvass .....	261
Total .....	693
Amount of pledges made before the Every-Member Canvass--	
For Local Expenses .....	\$16,016.96
For Benevolences .....	3,410.04
Total .....	\$19,427.00
Amount resulting from the Every-Member Canvass .....	\$ 6,374.46
Total amount pledged .....	\$25,801.46

The demand on the members has been unusually heavy this year. There have been three major drives for funds: the Budget, the Centennial activities, and the remodeling and redecorating program. Over \$40,000 has already been subscribed to be paid this year into these three funds. Some who have not yet pledged will make contributions before the end of the year. With care in the expenditures, the Church should be able to close its books on December 31 without a deficit.

We thank all who have participated in the drive to make this achievement possible.

Respectfully submitted,

CABLE VON MAUR and  
ALBERT R. BAWDEN, Co-Chairmen



# APPENDIX

## FINANCES FOR 1939 \*

### Receipts:

On hand January 1, 1939	\$ 200.00
1938 subscriptions paid in 1939	1,800.00
1939 subscriptions paid in 1939	19,000.00
Loose collections	1,445.00
For benevolences and Deacons' Fund*	3,000.00
Gifts for special purposes	250.00

### Total Receipts

\$25,695.00

### Disbursements:

General Assembly Tax 1938-39	\$ 567.00
Pension Board	471.00
Benevolences and Deacons' Fund*	3,000.00
Salaries	13,918.00
Pulpit supply	95.00
Music	650.00
Young People's work	600.00
Office supplies, printing, postage	1,200.00
Telephones	225.00
Light, gas, power, water	570.00
Coal	900.00
Sexton's supplies	50.00
Repairs and replacements	1,500.00
Car up-keep	450.00
Duplex envelopes and incidentals	176.00
Insurance	450.00
Note at the bank	700.00

### Total Disbursements

\$25,522.00

### On hand January 1, 1940

\$ 173.00

### Total

\$25,695.00

\*This report is made on December 1, 1939, and includes estimates of expenses and contributions for the remainder of the year, allowing for all bills to be paid.

\*\*This report does not include the contributions and special gifts of organizations sent direct, which forms of benevolences for 1938 amounted to \$1,700.00; nor does it include the special Centennial funds reported below.

Respectfully submitted,

MRS. IDA B. HUTCHENS, Treasurer

## CENTENNIAL REMODELING AND REDECORATING

Total cost (including interest on money borrowed to meet all bills as incurred)	\$12,200.00
Amount of pledges* paid to December 4, 1939	\$11,353.08
Amount of pledges unpaid to December 4, 1939	585.58
Total amount pledges to this fund	\$11,938.08
Amount not yet subscribed *	261.92

### Total

\$12,200.00

\*This figure includes an anonymous gift of \$3,000 in cash presented on condition that the balance be raised by the Church.

Respectfully submitted,

BURDICK RICHARDSON, Chairman

## CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION FUND

Pledges paid in to December 1, 1939	\$ 1,822.00
Collections at Centennial meetings	547.29
Total Receipts	\$ 2,369.29
Centennial Gifts:	
To F. B. McCuskey, India, for car	\$ 1,000.00
To Miss Maye Dennis, on furlough	100.00
To Dr. H. C. Anderson, Brazil	100.00
Total Gifts	\$ 1,200.00
Centennial speakers, banquets, pageant, special programs and incidentals	863.30
Cash on hand December 1, 1939	305.99

### Total

\$ 2,369.29

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE INNES, Chairman





## BEHIND THESE YEARS

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### CHARTER

The first Articles of Incorporation for the First Presbyterian Church were adopted in the annual congregational meeting on Tuesday, January 8, 1851, and recorded two days later in the Recorder's office of Scott County, Iowa.

They were revised when the property at Seventh and Brady Streets was purchased and new Articles were adopted in 1897 when the present church site was purchased. These substitute Articles of Incorporation are the ones under which the church is operating at present.

#### "ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION"

"FIRST—The name of this Corporation shall be First Presbyterian Church of Davenport, and same shall be a continuance of The First Presbyterian Old School Church of Davenport, and by said new name it shall be the owner of all the property now owned by the present Corporation, and shall have perpetual succession, may sue and be sued in its Corporate name, and may make contracts and acquire and transfer property as herein provided. The principal place of transacting business of said Corporation shall be at Davenport, in Scott County, Iowa.

"SECOND—The particular business and objects of said Corporation are and shall be as follows:

"(a) To establish, support and maintain in the city of Davenport, Scott County, Iowa, permanent, public, religious worship and services, including the preaching of the Gospel, according to the doctrines, rules and usages of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, and in connection with, and under the direction and government of the General Assembly and the subordinate jurisdictions of said church as established by the constitution thereof; and same shall be a Corporation not for pecuniary profit.

"(b) For the purpose of maintaining such religious worship and service, to acquire and purchase such real estate as will be necessary for the purposes of such Church, and to hold such real estate as now belongs to the original Corporation, and also such real estate as may hereafter belong to the Corporation under its new name, and said new Corporation may without further authority, acquire title to the property recently purchased for the uses of said Church, and now standing in the name of George W. Cable, Trustee, to-wit: Lot No. Five (5) and the East Half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of Lot No. Four (4) in Block No. One hundred and eighteen (118) in Smith and Kelly's Addition to the City of Davenport, in Scott County, Iowa, and to erect and maintain thereon a church edifice or house of worship and to erect such other buildings including a parsonage house or manse for the Pastor of said Church as may be necessary or proper for the promotion of the objects of said Corporation.

"(c) To take and hold, manage and control any property, real or personal, which may be given, devised, or bequeathed to said Corporation for the promotion of the objects thereof, and to grant, bargain, sell and convey any property, real or personal, which may at any time belong to the Corporation.

"(d) No additional future purchase nor sale of real estate for this Corporation shall be made except in accordance with a vote of the majority of members of the congregation present at a regular or special business meeting held after and by virtue of due notice given from the pulpit on the two successive Sabbaths previous to said meeting.



## APPENDIX

"(e) The business affairs of this Corporation shall be managed by a Board of Six (6)\* Trustees, two of whom shall be elected on the second Wednesday of January in each year, at which time the regular annual congregational meeting shall be held, and when so elected such Trustees shall continue in office for a term of three (3) years and until their successors are elected. The present Board of Trustees shall be A. Burdick and A. F. Cutter, whose terms of office shall expire in January, 1898; W. H. Wilson and W. A. Blair, whose terms of office shall expire in January, 1899; and George W. Cable and C. J. Von Maur, whose terms of office shall expire in January, 1900.

"(f) There shall be elected at each annual congregational meeting, a Treasurer who shall hold his office for one year, and until his successor is elected.

"(g) In case of a vacancy in the office of Treasurer, or in the Board of Trustees, such vacancy shall be filled by the remaining members of the Board of Trustees until the next regular annual congregational meeting.

"(h) The Board of Trustees shall hold meetings at such time and place as they may determine.

"(i) Special meetings of the Congregation may be held at any time, upon due notice from the pulpit, as hereinbefore provided.

"(j) In case of sale of real estate or personal property owned by this Corporation, the proper deeds or other instruments of conveyance shall be executed by the Trustees in such manner as the Board of Trustees may order after due authority given them by the Congregation in the manner hereinbefore provided.

"(k) This Corporation shall begin business under these new substituted Articles on the first day of February, A. D., 1897, and said Articles shall continue in force for Fifty (50) years thereafter.

"(l) These Articles of Incorporation may be amended, altered or repealed or new Articles of Incorporation may be substituted therefor by the affirmative vote of Two-thirds (2/3) of the members present at any regular or special meeting called in the manner above provided.

"Be it further Resolved that after the adoption of these resolutions and substituted Articles of Incorporation by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present at this meeting, a certified copy of said Resolutions and Articles shall be made, attested by the Trustees of the Corporation, and duly acknowledged by them, and said Trustees are hereby authorized, instructed and directed to have such certified copy filed for record in the Recorder's Office of Scott County, Iowa, on or before February 1, 1897, and they are further directed to take such other and further action as they are advised is necessary to perfect and put in force these substituted Articles of Incorporation."

The above substituted Articles of Incorporation were adopted by a rising vote, every member present voting for the said Resolutions and substituted Articles of Incorporation, January 12, 1897, and attested the same day by:

Anthony Burdick  
A. F. Cutter  
W. H. Wilson  
W. A. Blair  
G. W. Cable  
C. J. Von Maur  
Trustees

\*These Articles of Incorporation were amended on April 23, 1914, in order to increase the number of members of the Board of Trustees from six to nine, the number constituting the Board at the present time.



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